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THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1990

LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 424,000
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30p

Blizzards bring road chaos to Scotland in wake of storm

More fierce gales coming as toll hits 46

By David Sapsted

Severe gales are expected to hit Britain again on Monday in the wake of the storms which left 46 dead and hundreds injured as well as millions of pounds of damage on Thursday.

As Scotland came to terms with blizzards bringing chaos to the roads in many parts of the country yesterday, the London Weather Centre said that another deep Atlantic depression was heading towards Britain.

"We do not think it will get as bad as on Thursday but it is certainly going to be very windy. Just how windy we will not be able to say until Sunday," a spokesman said.

Insurance companies were bracing themselves for claims totalling at least a record £2 billion as a result of the havoc.

Apart from the death toll, which was more than twice that of the hurricane in October, 1987, damage to homes and property on Thursday occurred over a far wider area than 27 months ago.

At least forty people were killed on the Continent, including 19 in the Netherlands, where one man was

crushed in the gears of his windmill; 10 in France; seven in Belgium and three in West Germany.

The Prime Minister yesterday described the storm's toll as "just terrible" and Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, visited Grange Junior School near Swindon where Emily McDonald, aged 11, was killed and five of her classmates were injured when the roof was blown off.

Attempts to restore power and telephones to tens of thousands of homes intensified yesterday with a 22-strong team of electricians from Scotland and more than 70 from the north-east of England travelling south west to help, but many homes are likely to be without electricity until Sunday or Monday.

AA Roadwatch reported many Scottish roads affected by blizzards and drifting snow. Worst hit was the Dumfries to Edinburgh road at Devil's Beef Tub, where snow was 5 ft deep. The Sanquhar to Wanlockhead road at Dalveen Pass was also blocked.

In the Highlands, 300 men in 150 lorries fitted with snow ploughs and snow blowers battled to keep roads clear, but the Blairgowrie to Braemar road — the main route to the Scottish ski resorts — was blocked at Spital of Glenshee by three foot drifts.

Police closed snow gates and warned skiers to check road conditions before setting out this weekend. The Cockbridge to Tomintoul road and main tourist route through Glencoe were also blocked.

Roads elsewhere in Scotland cleared as a thaw set in, but drivers were warned to beware as snow turned to slush.

Most major routes in England had been cleared of storm damage but there was chaos in central London with the Embankment blocked yesterday morning because of a dangerous building. The resulting jams lasted all day.

There was snow, too, in the Bristol area yesterday morning, and drivers' problems were compounded by the fact that many motorway emergency phones were not working.

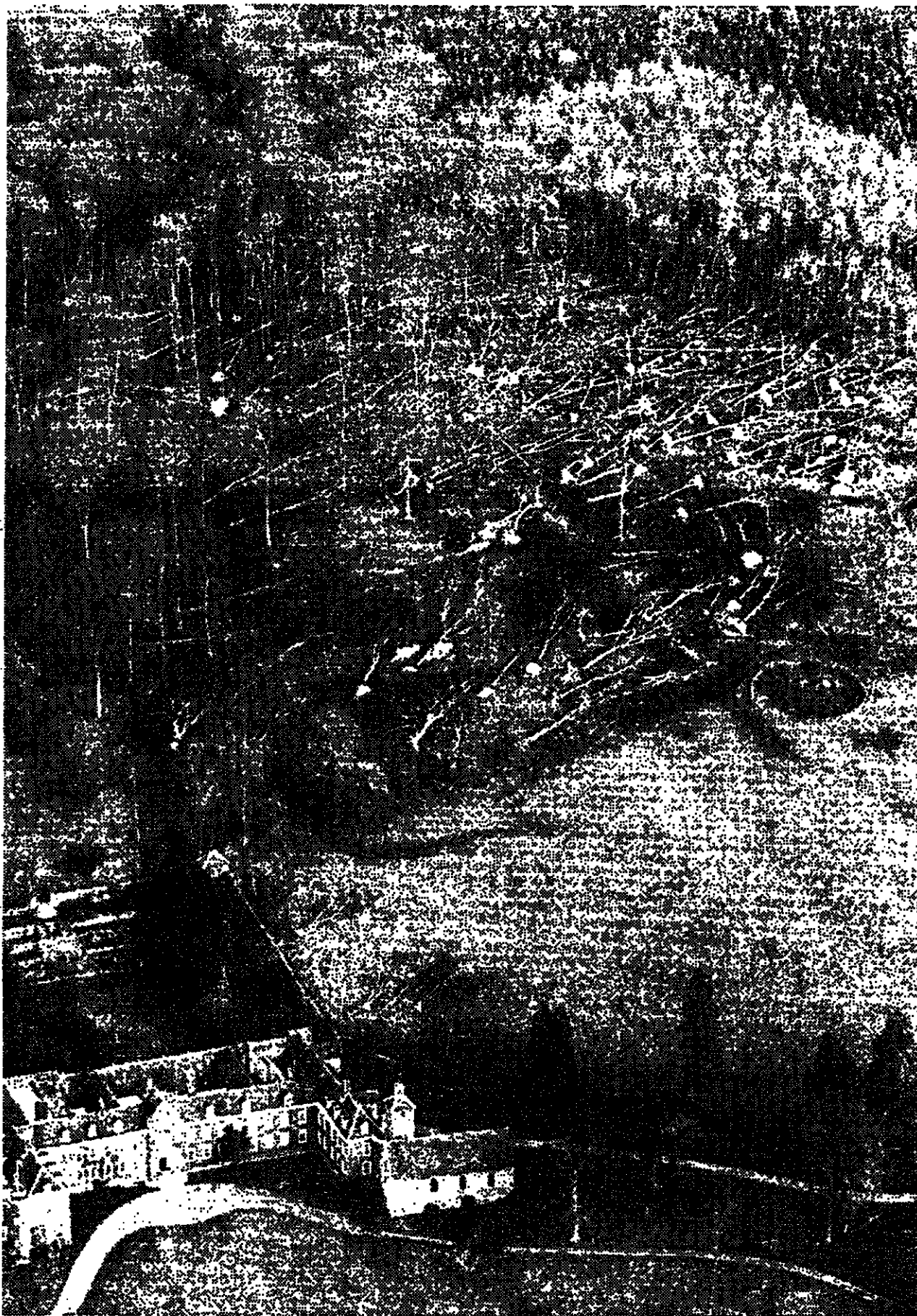
Rail services slowly returned to normal, although there continued to be many cancellations and delays on lines in the South-east and East Anglia, mainly because of power failures. All London mainline stations were fully operational, apart from Waterloo where continuing strong winds prevented an inspection of suspected roof damage.

British Telecom said it would be working through the weekend to restore services to homes in the worst-hit areas of the West Country, south coast and parts of Kent.

Everywhere, hundreds of soldiers and Royal Marines were helping the civil authorities. Apart from clearing trees and replacing power lines, they came to the aid of many old people's homes by lending generators.

An estimated 3.5 million trees were blown down during the gale, according to the Forestry Commission. The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew will be closed until next week after suffering considerable damage, including the loss of about 100 trees.

Gordon Kaye, the star of BBC Television's *Allo, Allo*, remained in critical condition on a life support system at a London hospital last night. He underwent brain surgery on Thursday after his car had been hit by falling scaffolding.



Flattened: A swathe of ravaged trees at Stonor Park, near Henley-on-Thames, reveals the power of Thursday's storm.

Smaller deficit boosts pound

By Colin Narbrough
Economics Correspondent

Britain's trade gap with the rest of the world narrowed sharply last month to a 15-month low as exports climbed to record levels and import growth continued to slow.

The £1.1 billion deficit in trade in goods and services was much better than City forecasts and was warmly welcomed by the financial markets as evidence that the Government's counter-inflation strategy is starting to have a positive effect.

Buoyed by the trade news, the pound ended 0.3 of a point higher at 88.1 on its trade-weighted index and looked to

Pound and shares rally 17 Stock market 18

have survived the traditionally nervous month of January without coming under undue pressure.

The stock market was boosted by the news, with the FT-SE index of 100 shares surging 12 points within minutes of the data appearing.

For Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the figures provided assurance that his high interest rate policy is having the desired effect on trade flows after having dampened down domestic demand.

The December figure brought the current account deficit to a record £20.3 billion for the whole of last year, just above Mr Major's £20 billion forecast.

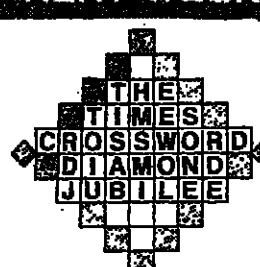
The previous record was the £14.7 billion in 1988. The Treasury expects a £15 billion deficit this year.

Scottish diver hurt at Games

The Scottish diver, Peter Smith, was taken to hospital yesterday after striking his head on the diving board while competing in the one-metre springboard competition. Smith, aged 19, from Troon, had three stitches in the back of his head, but still hopes to compete in today's three-metre event.

Games reports, page 52, 53

NEXT WEEK



The Times Crossword — the most famous puzzle in the world — is 60 years old next week. To mark the event we shall be publishing *The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword*, the biggest we have ever compiled, and every bit as challenging as any to have appeared over the past six decades.

Each day next week we shall publish a different set of clues to this prize crossword. The winner will receive a holiday for two in India plus £1,000 cash, and there are 11 other prizes.

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BBC budget cut to save £75m a year

By Ray Clancy

Wide-ranging and radical cuts in services at the BBC, aimed at saving £75 million a year by 1993 to fund a more competitive pay strategy and provide more and better programmes, were unveiled yesterday.

The cuts include scrapping plans for a £200 million radio centre at White City, west London, the loss of an orchestra, a freeze in staff recruitment and a 10 per cent decrease in capital expenditure. Mr Michael Checkland, director-general of the BBC, said:

"The savings, based on recommendations from an internal review, do not mention job losses but some reports have forecast up to 5,000 staff could be axed."

"Savings must be achieved by clarifying our objectives and reshaping our activities to produce a leaner, better run and more clearly defined Corporation," Mr Checkland told representatives of the 27,000 staff at a meeting at Broadcasting House.

Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC board of governors, which has approved the savings, said: "We believe that the wide-ranging and radical decisions set the framework for a successful and confident BBC for the 1990s."

The BBC's headquarters in London will be updated as a base for network radio. The Radio Orchestra is scrapped but its big band section is retained.

Television departments have been told to come up with plans by April to release £25 million a year until 1993, including contracting out programme making and administration. News and current affairs are expected to save £5 million from productivity and improved working methods.

Moscow's aim to crush Azerbaijan nationalists

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Moscow sent troops into Azerbaijan with the single aim of destroying the republic's Popular Front nationalist movement, General Dmitri Yazov, the Soviet Defence Minister, said in Baku in his first comment on the military assault on the city.

The front, he told a news conference, was intent on "undermining the Communist leadership and seizing power", and the task of the troops was "to destroy the structure of power which has formed at all enterprises and offices".

General Yazov's remarks

Continued on page 8, col 4

Depressed Ron Brown broods at home

By Andrew Collier and William Peakin



Mr Ron Brown, the Labour MP who has been asked to resign his seat by his local party, reacted to the probable end of his political career with a mixture of depression and eccentricity yesterday.

He stayed in his Edinburgh home along with his wife, May, who may stand for his Leith constituency if, as is expected, a new selection contest for the seat is called by Labour leaders.

At one stage the couple telephoned police in a bid to fend off persistent reporters.

Later, Mr Brown finally decided to appear before the world's press. He put on a blue Halloween mask, stood in the window and gave them a two-fingered salute.

On Thursday evening Mr Brown, who was fined £1,000 earlier this month after being convicted of causing criminal damage at his former girlfriend's flat, lost a vote of no confidence by 37-22. The local party also agreed to ask Labour's national executive committee to start the selection procedure for a new candidate by a vote of 35-19.

Mr Brown appears to have been deeply affected by the result. His mood during the two-and-a-half hour hearing was sombre and he is said to have stood for an hour in the empty and darkened committee room afterwards.

Despite his shock at the outcome, Mr Brown intends to fight his deselection. His wife said after the meeting: "He will definitely not resign, and he will stand again."

Another possibility is that Mrs Brown, who has consistently supported her husband, could stand.

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THE GREAT STORM

Britons count cost of gale-force winds as clean-up continues

Insurance claims likely to exceed 1987's £2bn total

By Melinda Wittstock

Insurance claims for damages in the fierce storms that battered southern Britain on Thursday could exceed the £2 billion insurance losses arising from the October 1987 great storm.

Insurance companies, underwriters and reinsurers said claims would be significantly higher than those of 1987.

Mr David Hudson, an insurance analyst at Barings de Zoete Wedd, the City brokers, said:

"We wouldn't be at all surprised if losses greatly exceed those of 1987." Mr Hudson said. "The total insured loss to the UK market will likely be more than £2 billion in total, with the Lloyd's reinsurance market bearing the brunt of the losses."

"Many more people always claim in times of recession. Those struggling with mortgage repayments or strapped for cash will be far more claims conscious whereas in 1987 they might not have bothered," Mr David Hudson, an insurance analyst at Barings de Zoete Wedd, the City brokers, said.

Most of the big composite insurers increased their reinsurance cover after the 1987 hurricane. Although claims are likely to top this level, reinsurers are expected to take a minimum £100 million

more in losses than they did in 1987, Mr Peter Constable, a reinsurance analyst at Robert Fleming Securities, said.

He said the Lloyd's of London syndicates, which took about half of the burden two years ago, will probably lose more than £100 million when their exposure of direct motor and household insurance, reinsurance from smaller, unquoted insurance companies and extensive damage on the Continent is accounted for.

But Lloyd's said it would be impossible to quantify its total losses for some time. "Who gets what will be difficult to tell," Sun Alliance, Britain's biggest insurer of household buildings and contents, said it was too early to tell whether consumers would face increased premium rates.

Lloyd's losses, page 17
Family Money page 23



Workmen clearing up a site at Islington, north-east London, yesterday where three cars were crushed by scaffolding and splattered by industrial paint.

NEWS ROUNDUP

'Mad cow' cases found in Oman

The first cases of "mad cow" disease to be diagnosed outside Britain, the Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland have been reported from the Sultanate of Oman (Michael Hornsby writes).

A letter in the latest issue of *The Veterinary Record*, the weekly journal of the British Veterinary Association, says the disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was found in two Jersey cows imported from England in 1985.

Earlier this week, the European Community decided to ban the import from Britain of live cattle aged more than six months (no case of BSE has been diagnosed in animals younger than this). In addition, Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said Australia, Finland, Israel, Sweden and the United States are no longer allowing imports from Britain of live cattle born before July, 1988. Cattle feed containing meat and bonemeal from sheep was banned then, because of an apparent link between BSE and scrapie in sheep.

Kidnap baby plea

Michael Aspel, the television presenter, made a personal appeal during peak viewing time last night to the woman who abducted a baby from St Thomas's Hospital, south London (William Peakin writes). Psychologists said that a person with a caring, gentle and trustworthy image was more likely to get a positive response than the parents or the police who may increase the woman's guilt and make it harder for her to return the baby. Alexandra Griffiths was abducted by a woman posing as a health visitor. The message will be repeated tonight and tomorrow night on ITV.

Greening of Ireland

Burning of bituminous coal, the main cause of smog, is to be banned in Dublin as part of a £1 billion environment package announced yesterday by the Irish Government. The exchequer grant of £2,000 for new housebuyers will be paid only for homes with an alternative to coal burning. The 6p price gap between standard and unleaded petrol is to be widened next week. Over the next 10 years, £400 million will be spent to improve coastlines.

Scots Primus elected

The Right Rev George Henderson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, has been elected Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The election took place in Edinburgh yesterday at a meeting of the Episcopal Synod attended by the seven bishops in the Scottish province of the church. Bishop Henderson, aged 68, married, has been ordained for 46 years. Except for five years as a curate in Glasgow, he has served all of his ministry in Argyll.

'Magna Carta' for sale

The discoverer of an illustrated copy of the Magna Carta made in 1307 by lay scholars in a Westminster monastery hopes that a benefactor will buy it from him for the nation for £250,000 (Simon Tait writes). The book measures 4in by 2½in by 1¼in and was found by Mr Douglas Mellor, a London antiquarian bookseller, a year ago in a private collection in Switzerland, where it had been since 1935. It is illuminated and illustrated with contemporary characters.

Time change warning

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday took a stand against any introduction of Central European time. The summertime changes backed by the EC would mean sunrise at 10.30am in some northern areas. He told farmers at Inverurie, Grampian: "There can be no convincing argument that the single European market requires harmonization. The US has five time zones without any noticeable effect on its economic competence."

A paternal Prince and revolution

The Prince of Wales is engaged on nothing less than a royal revolution, according to a major article in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

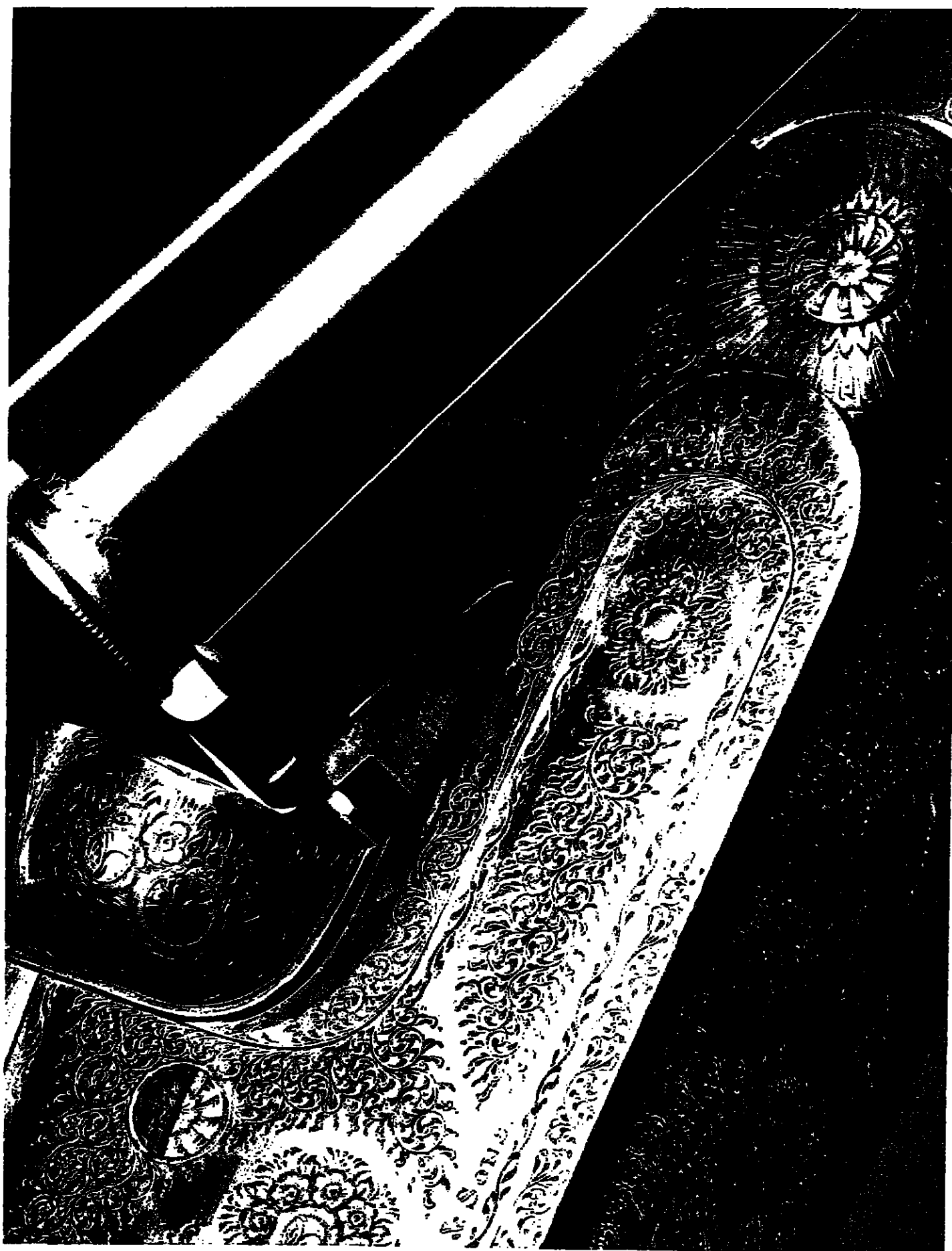
A paternalistic aristocrat, he is an unlikely radical, Andrew Morton, the leading royal writer, argues. Yet in his public life he is preparing the monarchy for a great constitutional adventure, a romantic, perhaps foolhardy undertaking that might be his last. Can hereditary monarchy preach egalitarianism without severing the arteries that sustain it, Morton asks.

Some call the Savoy Grill the Deal Makers' Arms, others describe it as Anyone who is Anyone's Canteen. Visit it for lunch and you can be sure of seeing the men who make Britain tick. In the Style and Travel section, Russell Miller reports on who sits where at the London restaurant where power is at the top of the menu.

There is also the start of *The Sunday Times Guide to Classic Cars*, with a 24-page free sticker album. Over the weeks, the guide will build into an authoritative reference work of the great cars.

For junior readers, there is the chance to join the *Sunday Times Club*, starting tomorrow in association with *The Sunday Times* weekly comic. Children who join will get a membership pack, concessions at fun parks and adventure trails, as well as special offers and prizes.

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By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Road and rail services began to return to normal, slowly, as clean-up teams tried to work around commuters determined to reach their destinations. However, with trains and drivers stranded in

"Then to make matters worse, they

One commuter, who set out by car from Shepherd's Bush, west London, to travel just eight miles to the East End, took more than two hours. Another trying to get to the Aldwych eventually gave up and abandoned his car at the side of the road to walk, arriving three hours late for an appointment.

Mr Cyril Bleasdale, BR's London Midland regional manager, ordered commuter trains to be drawn up to platforms to allow passengers on board. Some trains even ran a complimentary buffet service.

When trains did move, they did not go

Waterloo was still the worst hit of the mainline London stations; only five of 21 platforms were open while checks were carried out on the damaged glass canopy roof.

By David Sansted

town off and a fallen tree

The forecasts come from satellite pictures which show the direction and mixing of

ADRIAN BROOME



By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

"We could have landed, if

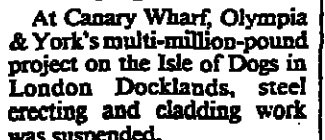
Morino

Once the aircraft is in the

their reports. As the aircraft

Design

Call for



CLYDE NEWMAN



By Richard Ford

assistance meant that local authorities should not be hindered from doing all that was necessary to ensure a swift and effective response to the storm.

By Alvin Hamilton

an attempt to get home when he found that he could not even get into Oxford Circus underground station because of the crush. He slept in a camp bed in his office.

usually a 30-minute journey. "I waited 20 minutes for a bus, and then got thrown off the one I got on because it was too full. The bus I finally caught crept all the way; the rest was indescribable."

two hours, most of it spent sitting on Clapham Junction station awaiting a connection. "No, I didn't speak to any strangers."

Stranded, awaiting a delayed connection at Epsbury Park sta-

Mr Julian Wilson, a communications consultant, would normally expect to drive to his home in Wimbledon in 45 minutes. On Thursday it took him an extra hour.

"Usually I drive home to *The Archers*. Last night, as I turned into my drive, they were just starting *A Book At Bedtime*. Terrible, but in a crisis like that, thank God for Radio Four."

$\chi^2 = 0.96$, $p = 0.87$; $\chi^2 = 0.96$, $p = 0.87$

Tory MEPs sense change in Thatcher's outlook on Europe



Sir Christopher Prout: "EC has a life of its own."

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

Conservative members of the European Parliament are to continue to argue for the establishment of a European Central Bank and for increased powers for their parliament in spite of peace talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street this week.

They will also continue to urge rapid British entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary System, something which Mrs Thatcher says Britain will only contemplate "when the time is right" and to which she attaches a long list of conditions.

However, Sir Christopher Prout, leader of the Conservative MEPs, insists that Mrs Thatcher's attitude to Europe has changed. He says that his group is backing the

Central European Bank, opposed vigorously by the Prime Minister, in order to ensure that no future Labour government has the chance to reverse her economic policies. He defends them against accusations by Mr Norman Tebbit that they represent Europe in Britain rather than Britain in Europe.

Sir Christopher said: "We are accused by Tebbit of backing the Central Bank because we are federalists. I vigorously reject that. 'The reason why the group is looking very seriously at it and has voted for that solution two or three times in the European Parliament is because of its commitment to sound money and its belief that the best way of achieving it is by having a central bank mechanism independent of the hurly burly of politics.'

"Many of my colleagues say that this is the best way of entrenching

Thatcherism. Just as the Single European Market has entrenched Thatcherite free markets, so an independent central bank would entrench Thatcherism's sound money. No one is doing the important argument any service by dismissing it as covert federalism," he said.

Britain had accepted the principle of economic and monetary union and the Treasury did not rule out institutional change, saying merely that it was premature. Sir Christopher admitted there was a "difference of emphasis" on the ERM, but said Mrs Thatcher was committed to it in principle.

He said there had been a crucial change in her attitude to Europe. "Her remark after the Strasbourg summit, repeated in the Commons, that she regarded the European Community as a 'driving force' in the future of Europe is a

very significant change if you go back to her Bruges speech because it is a recognition that the Community has a life of its own."

Sir Christopher admitted that the Tory MEPs did not expect to make progress on the ERM at their meeting with the Prime Minister. He said the discussion was about how to manage their differences better in the future with "some hope of convergence".

Calls for an increase in the powers of the European Parliament to balance new institutions making progress towards economic and monetary union have been backed by Chancellor Kohl, President Mitterrand and M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission.

Sir Christopher said the Single European Act, which allowed the Council of Ministers to make decisions by majority rather than

unanimous vote, had left national parliaments powerless to affect the outcome of events where their country was in a minority. "There has to be something which makes the Council in its majority voting democratically accountable. At the moment there isn't."

While he was not particularly concerned about demands for the European Parliament to have the right to initiate legislation, he wanted it to be given political control over the Commission, including the right, perhaps, to choose its president from a short list of candidates.

The Tory MEPs want the European Council to conduct its legislative role in the open. "It seems to us every other democratic organization in the world conducts its legislative process in public. It is extraordinary that the most powerful arm of the legislative process in

the Community, where crucial decisions are made, should meet behind closed doors."

The MEPs want their parliament to be given rights to be consulted and to amend legislation in all areas where the European Council takes decisions by majority, rights they have on matters involving the Single European Market. This would, for example, give MEPs bigger powers over agricultural and employment affairs.

Sir Christopher said Tory MEPs often had to take positions on key questions in the European Parliament much earlier than at Westminster. "Whether you are a Conservative or Labour MEP, you are in a minority. You have to achieve all your political objectives as part of a coalition. You have to make deals. There cannot be deals unless you are prepared to sacrifice the best for the good."

Unionists split over Powell plea to defy moves to devolution

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Enoch Powell highlighted deep divisions between Northern Ireland's unionist politicians on the future of the province by urging colleagues last night "not to give an inch".

He told "loyalists" that the Government was aiming to re-form of devolved government "for the province, similar to the 1974 power-sharing experiment" and their ground.

Mr Powell, defeated as the Ulster Unionist MP for South Down in 1987, accused the Northern Ireland Office of existing "had to know to the Minister" states, who demanded that the province should be handed "to an all-Ireland state."

With several senior members of the Ulster Unionist Party hopeful that a means can be found towards ending the political deadlock, Mr Powell predicted failure for efforts by Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to encourage talks towards some form of devolved administration.

Mr Brooke's initiative was "not a starter", Mr Powell said in a speech at Newcastle, Co Down, in which he reiterated his strong support for integration. Unionists were as immovable as rock and must go on saying they wanted to be treated like any other part of the United Kingdom, he said.

"The moral is that when your enemy is desperate, you have him licked. Don't give an inch, stand your ground, don't let him catch you off guard when he is nearly beaten."

The intervention by Mr Powell, who remains a member of the Ulster Unionist Party and is a close confidant of Mr James Moynihan, discloses the serious differences within the party on what it would want to achieve in any talks between the province's constitutional parties.

Ulster Unionist MPs and

party workers in favour of devolved government bitterly criticized Mr Powell last night. One leading figure said: "It just about sums up his contribution to the party. Do nothing and make no effort to do anything to try get some power back to the elected representatives of Ulster."

They suspect that Mr Powell's friendship with Mr Moynihan will influence the natural instincts of the Ulster Unionist leader to do as little as possible to encourage moves towards talks with other parties.

Other party figures have signalled they will oppose any arrangements that resemble power sharing. They have sought to dampen expectations that there could be room for movement and believe

● When your enemy is desperate, you have him licked. Don't give an inch ●

that it is unlikely that serious talks with other parties will take place for several months.

They argue that proposals outlined in the 1979 Conservative Party manifesto, providing for a regional council and a limited devolved administration along with a wider British-Irish agreement, are the most that could be sold to the unionist electorate.

● A 12-man Provisional IRA assault team is thought to have emerged unscathed last month after launching one of the organization's most well planned and intensive military attacks.

Two members of the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers were killed and a third was wounded seriously in the attack at dusk on December 13 when the IRA reversed a lorry into the remote military checkpoint at Derryard, Co Fermanagh,

about two miles from Rosslea. Forensic tests around the border checkpoint and on the lorry used by the IRA unit have found no evidence that any of the terrorists were hit. The Army is thought to have discharged an estimated 400 rounds during a 20-minute exchange of fire.

Although the soldiers clearly had difficulty finding their targets, the IRA inflicted at least two of the Army casualties in the first seconds when surprise was at a premium.

Two members of the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers were killed and a third was wounded seriously in the attack at dusk on December 13 when the IRA reversed a lorry into the remote checkpoint about two miles from the village of Rosslea.

Forensic examination of the lorry, which was left booby trapped in fields close to the border, and of the area around the post, have found no evidence to substantiate claims that IRA men had been killed or wounded.

The IRA gang carried Libyan-supplied arms, including two .50 Browning heavy machine guns mounted on tripods on the back of the lorry, a flame-thrower, two RPG-7 anti-armour rockets, automatic rifles and hand grenades. The terrorists also deployed a van bomb which failed to explode fully.

In statements highlighting the bravery of at least two of the estimated 13 soldiers involved, the Army indicated that the fighting was of unprecedented ferocity conducted at extremely close quarters.

The gang had shot a soldier as he approached the lorry and wounded a second who came to assist. The post had been subjected to intensive Browning fire. An RPG-7 rocket blew out the back wall of the observation tower before embedding itself in the roof of a bungalow 300 yards away.

Dismantled theatre in move to Florida



Stages of a theatre's life: left, sections of the Dunfermline Opera House on their way to Florida; top, the 1921 interior; above, sketch of the Asolo Arts Centre.

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

A provincial variety theatre that was dismantled eight years ago to make way for a shopping centre is to reopen on Saturday in America. The Dunfermline Opera House, which once rang to the robust tones of Sir Harry Lauder and Will Fyfe, has been reassembled inside the new Asolo Arts Centre in Sarasota, Florida.

The conservationists who failed to prevent its demolition in 1982 had managed to get an agreement that the interior be carefully dismantled and stored. The "opera house", so-called because theatres were considered to be places of ill repute, — was built in 1921. It was being used as a warehouse when, long after its heyday was over, it was found by the Edinburgh architect Professor James Dunbar-

Nasmith while compiling a list of endangered theatres. Mr Ian Mackintosh, a designer who was one of the conservationists who tried to save the old theatre, says: "There was no exterior really since it had an entrance between shops, but the interior was magnificent." They called in Mr Leonard Grandison, of Peebles, a firm of ornamental plasterers, who spent three months taking the theatre to pieces and numbering and wrapping each piece in towels.

For three years, the theatre languished in a container on a wind-blown airfield, until Mrs Elizabeth Lindsay, a board member of the arts centre in Florida, was brought to Scotland by Mr Mackintosh. "Even in the container we could see that it was just what we wanted," she said. "We could have had a modern theatre, but the people of

Sarasota didn't want a box, they wanted a proper theatre that was warm and intimate. We couldn't have recreated this ambience, even by copying it." She bought the box, balcony, and proscenium, from Dunfermline for \$50,000 — most of it going to charity. Mr Grandison has supervised the reassembly of the theatre over the past three years. "It's just the same as it must have been in the 1920s."

The Dunfermline Opera House will provide the main stage of the new Asolo Centre with 499 seats. It is flanked by a studio theatre and a film and television studio, partly paid for by the film star Burt Reynolds, who trained at Sarasota. The entire arts complex has cost \$10 million. "However beautiful, a theatre auditorium should have ghosts," Mr Mackintosh said. "We've brought plenty of ghosts from Dunfermline."

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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PARLIAMENT

Labour attack on storm damage help

The scale of Government help to local authorities faced with massive bills after yesterday's storm was condemned by Labour MPs.

In a Commons statement Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government, said that the "Bellwin scheme", which local authorities understood and had operated in the past, would apply now.

Mr Bryan Gould, Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that councils should be reimbursed for every penny they spent on repairing damage.

Mr Hunt, with MPs on all sides, paid tribute to the emergency and voluntary services, including ambulance staff, and the armed forces, electricity workers and British Rail staff. "They have done a magnificent job," he said.

He hoped that, given the financial support promised from central government, local authorities would not be hindered from doing all that was necessary to ensure a swift and effective response to the storm.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) asked whether Meteorological Office warnings had been given to local authorities in good time.

Mr Hunt said that the Met Office had given warnings.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said that after the 1987 storm it had been discovered that the grants system was not as beneficial to local authorities as expected.

Mr Hunt said that a different financial regime was in place.

Mr Matthew Taylor (Truro, Lib Dem) asked for a review of the Bellwin scheme in view of the changes in local authority funding. More financial help might be required.

Mr Hunt said that when the new financing arrangements began on April 1, the product of a 1p rate would no longer be relevant, but it was the Government's intention to continue the Bellwin scheme and there would be consultations with local authorities.

Mr Stanley Orme (Salford East, Lab) said that the emer-

gency services, and the ambulance service in particular, had responded magnificently. Should there not now be further efforts to resolve the ambulance workers' dispute?

Mr Hunt said that everyone was grateful for the work done by the ambulance men and women who had suspended their industrial action and turned out to help. This was not

an occasion for making political points.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that after the 1987 storm, many local authorities had been found to be not covered by insurance or to be under-insured. He asked for an assurance that taxpayers' money would not be used to assist such authorities?

Mr Hunt gave the assurance.

Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West, Lab) asked why no public warnings had been issued in the United States not only were such warnings given, but particular hazards to avoid were detailed. Such advice might have saved some of the tragic deaths.

Mr Hunt said that public warnings had been issued.

Mr John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) said that the Bellwin scheme was not good enough at the end of the financial year when local authorities were under financial restrictions.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) said that the Government should

extend the programme set up to save damaged trees after the last great storm.

Mr Hunt said that they were determined to make good the losses and replace trees so that future generations would continue to enjoy their heritage.

Mr Richard Holt (Loughborough, C) said that the Bellwin scheme had cobwebs on it and needed dusting. The Metropolitan Police could have done a great deal more to keep London's traffic moving by deploying officers at bottlenecks.

Mr Hunt said that the Bellwin scheme introduced a note of certainty for local authorities. Mr Holt had been unfair to the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Gould said that the Government should recognize their responsibility to the ambulance workers and give them a fair settlement.

Mr Hunt said that the ambulance workers always responded magnificently. So did the police and firemen.



Mr Orme: Ambulance service responded magnificently.

Second reading for Bill to improve guarantees

A private Member's Bill to improve the guarantees given to shoppers buying consumer durables was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons despite opposition from the Government.

The Bill requires shops or manufacturers to replace or repair free of charge any faulty goods still under guarantee. Manufacturers will be required to state whether an item has a guarantee.

Moving the second reading of the Consumer Guarantees Bill, Mr Martin Jones (South West Cymru, Lab) said that the Bill would define a clear and simple guarantee to allow consumers to choose a product by reference to quality, reliability and after-sales service, not simply by price.

Mr Cresswell Gregory (York, C) said that the case for the Bill was overwhelming. It was essential that a customer looking at goods should know if there was a guarantee.

"We throw away £3,500 million on unsatisfactory cars and another £346 million on faulty household goods."

Mr David Porter (Waveney, C) said that he would like to see the guarantees extended to the service industries to cover bodies like British Rail, the Post Office and local authorities who failed to deliver a minimum standard of service.

Mr Matthew Taylor, Liberal Democrat spokesman on trade and industry, said that the Bill was about the natural expecta-

tions of consumers when they bought expensive goods.

Mr Gerald Bowden (Dulwich, C) said that guarantees had been misused for many years. It should be written underneath all guarantees: it is the large print that gives and the small print that takes away.

Mr David Martin (Portsmouth South, C) said that the Bill would help people who lacked the confidence or intelligence to press their rights, or were ignorant of them.

Mr John Maples (Lewisham West, C) said that the Sale of Goods Act already provided a fundamental basis for consumer protection. The Bill would add to costs.

Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Consumer

Affairs, said that the Government had announced its intention to legislate. Its proposals would set a high standard for the quality which consumers were entitled to expect and would clarify and strengthen consumers' rights.

The whole area of guarantees merited further examination but Mr Jones's Bill might interfere in the delicate relationship between consumers, manufacturers, retailers and providers of finance.

It would create a long-term right of consumer rejection even if the defect was only minor. It was possible that consumers would abuse the Bill to seek replacement of goods.

Compulsory refund and replacement remedies would be

most unfair to manufacturers, who would have to refund the purchase price in full although having no control over the retail price. With finance agreements, the guarantor would be at risk of writing a blank cheque for the consumer.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that it was necessary to give the public a clear indication that the goods they bought were backed by genuine guarantees. That was not provided by present law.

● The Licensing (Low Alcohol Drink) Bill, which amends the definition of alcohol in low alcohol drinks, was given an unopposed second reading. It provides for a common definition in England, Scotland and Wales.

هكذا من الأصل

Newspaper editors libel case

Worsthorne tells of school seduction by George Melly

By Robin Young

The jazz singer George Melly seduced Mr Peregrine Worsthorne "with incredible despatch" on the art room sofa when they were schoolboys, the High Court was told yesterday.

The former editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* had also dressed up in a floppy hat and cloak to flirt with older boys at Stowe School.

But he described as ridiculous and far-fetched suggestions that such revelations in an anthology of public school-day memoirs published in 1977 had brought him and his newspaper into disrepute.

He told Mr Richard Rampton, QC, for Mr Andrew Neil, the *Sunday Times* editor who is suing Mr Worsthorne for libel: "I totally disagree that a 'frank' description of one's schooldays is likely to bring a 'man of 55 into disrepute'."

There had subsequently been correspondence about the matter in *The Times Literary Supplement*, which he did not think had happened in relation to Mr Neil's relationship with Mrs Pamela Bordes, a former Commons researcher exposed as a prostitute.

Mr Neil and *Times* Newspapers are suing Mr Worsthorne and his newspaper over two articles and a cartoon, claiming that they implied, during their four-month relationship, Mr Neil knew Mrs Bordes was a call girl. The defendants deny the meaning alleged.

Mr Worsthorne's contribution to the anthology had said his life was transformed when he was invited to join a "Sunday salon".

"There was an air of latent homosexuality as my role was to flirt with the older boys. Homosexuality was implicit but never rampant. That was true of the school as a whole. Romantic friendships abounded but were only occasionally consummated," he wrote, although he admitted to "a certain amount of straight carnal groping".

Mr Melly had been "highly amused", but had denied the occasion. It had led to a long exchange between them in *The Times Literary Supplement* about their respective ages and who seduced whom.

Mr Worsthorne agreed with Mr Rampton that it was perhaps creating a hostile to fortune to write something which could be thrown at him many years later, but he "regretted the episode was likely to bring himself or his newspaper into disrepute. 'I think I am quite lucky that such imputations should have taken place so very long ago - almost in a dim, distant past'."

Earlier, Mr Worsthorne had repeated his view that Mr Neil should have recognized that it was "a dangerous liaison" to become involved with Mrs Bordes. He said that she had

made a dead set at Mr Neil as she made a dead set at a great many men.

"My judgement proved correct," he said. Everything he had supposed when writing his article had been confirmed by what he had subsequently learned. "I am not a complete simpleton."

He said he had "erred on the side of politeness" in describing Mrs Bordes as a "bimbo". With the benefit of hindsight, he would have described her as a call girl, but he was claiming only that what Mr Neil should have seen in her was a gold-digging adventuress.

She was, he said, "an extremely voluptuous, enormously physically attractive, alluring vamp, a femme fatale, a dangerous lady showing all the outward and visible signs of



Mr Andrew Neil: Gave Mrs Bordes a food processor.



Mr Peregrine Worsthorne: Schoolboy flirtations.

someone most men would be eager to have a relationship with." She exuded "animal self confidence" and "had sex appeal written all over her".

Asked whether he was not putting two and two together to make five, Mr Worsthorne replied: "I would describe it as putting two and two together and making four."

It had never occurred to him that Mrs Bordes had fallen in love with Mr Neil. "I've heard nothing to suggest that she fell in love with him. I find it very improbable."

He said the general view at *The Sunday Telegraph* had been that what he had written was absolutely fair comment and needed saying.

Re-examined by Mr Patrick Milmo, QC, his counsel, Mr Worsthorne said *The Sunday Telegraph's* coverage of the Bordes affair had been the same as that in *The Sunday Times*, with the exception that *The Sunday Telegraph* had

carried a leader while *The Sunday Times* had carried a column written by Mr Simon Jenkins regretting that other editors had not decided to write such leaders.

There had been no mention of the fact that Mr Neil had not known Mrs Bordes was a call girl in *The Sunday Times*, and he had not read into that any inference that he must have known.

Asked about his willingness after he became redundant as editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* to write a column for *The Sunday Times*, Mr Worsthorne said he would have been an independent columnist writing what he wanted and not for Mr Neil. It was something he had been willing to consider.

Mr Walter Ellis, who wrote the second piece complained of, told the court that he had written the article headlined "Dangerous liaisons" at Mr Worsthorne's request, but expressing his own views.

"It was not part of my intention to convey that Mr Neil knew anything of Mrs Bordes's past or any of her other activities." It was not suggested in his piece, "nor was it anywhere in my head."

Mr Ellis, who now works for Mr Neil at *The Sunday Times*, agreed with Mr Rampton that the suggestion that appeared in his column suggesting that Mr Rupert Murdoch had told Mr Neil his conduct was not fitting for a newspaper editor might have been better omitted, since it had been denied by *The Sunday Times*.

After legal discussion, Mr Neil was recalled to give further evidence about his first meeting with Mrs Bordes at the nightclub, Tramp. He said that he had gone there with a woman who was a friend but not a girl friend. They had shared a table with Lady Rothermere and her friends, one of whom waved to Mrs Bordes to join them.

Mrs Bordes had told Mr Neil's companion that she had completed a cordon bleu cookery course, and invited them to a dinner party to be "guinea pigs".

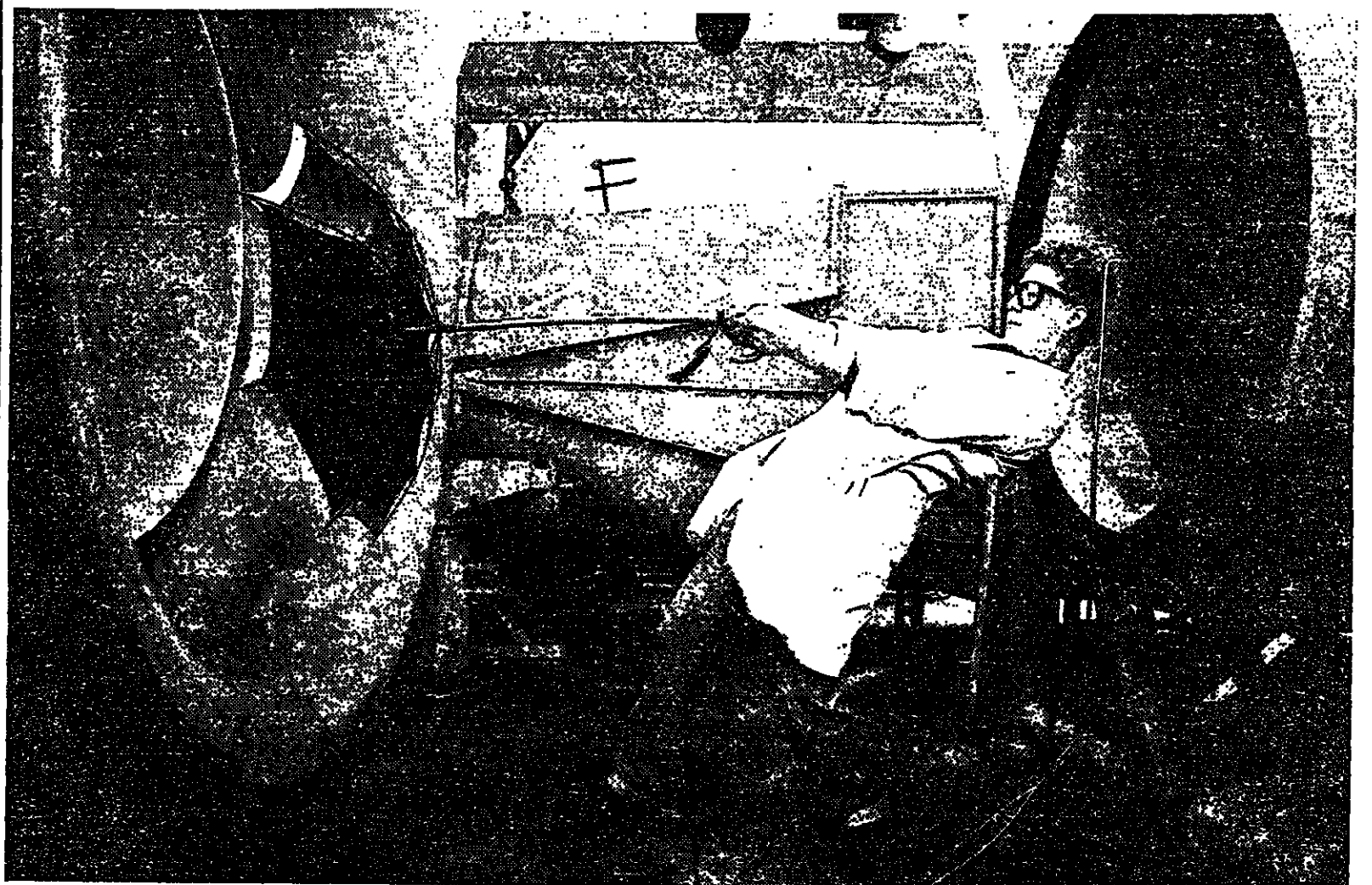
Mr Neil said that she had given her telephone number so that he or his companion could contact her if they were able to go. In the event, neither did.

Mr Neil said he subsequently rang Mrs Bordes to ask her out for lunch because he thought her "a rather attractive lady, who seemed intelligent and articulate, the sort of person I could take out to lunch."

Mr Neil said that Mrs Bordes had never discussed money, nor asked him for any, but he had given her "a very romantic present to help with her cordon bleu cookery: a Moulinex Magimix."

The case continues on Monday.

In a wind tunnel . . . the great umbrella test



Leaning into the storm: Mr Warren Marshall, a technician in an aerodynamics laboratory at Cranfield, finds how easily umbrellas are turned inside out.

Gust survival rate puts price tags in the shade

If you want to stay dry in wet and windy weather, do not use an umbrella, scientists concluded yesterday after they tested umbrellas for the ability to withstand the storms of the past 48 hours (Ruth Gledhill writes).

None could cope with a windspeed of more than 32mph and one blew inside out at less than 10mph.

Five survived at a windspeed in excess of 20mph and price was no help as a guide to the strongest umbrella.

The umbrellas were tested in wind tunnels at the aerodynamics laboratory at the College of Aeronautics in Cranfield in Bedfordshire.

Dr Kevin Garry, aerodynamicist, rated the umbrellas by the dynamic force they could withstand per square metre of nylon before being blown inside out.

Measuring the force in Newtons, where one Newton is about the same as the force exerted by one apple hanging from the handle of an umbrella, a bright yellow novelty umbrella bought for £2.99 in a sale in Oxford Street, London, emerged the winner. It usually costs £7.99.

The umbrella, with a handle shaped like a clown's head withstood the top windspeed of 32mph, a force of 150 Newtons per square metre,

before blowing inside out. If turned into the wind to spring it back, the umbrella's ribs were bent but reusable.

Most shops which sold the umbrellas tested said they should not be used in weather like that on Thursday.

A salesman at one small fashion store, Rush Me, said his £2.99 umbrella was strong enough for the violent gusts of wind and refused to replace it if it broke. The umbrella blew inside out at 10.2mph and would not spring back in the wind.

The umbrellas which gave the best overall performance, and were rated highest were exclusive handmade umbrellas from T Fox & Company in the city.

A blue, red and white umbrella with a whangee, or bamboo, handle and metal tube for a stem withstood a windspeed of 28mph before turning inside out. A £42.50 maroon umbrella with a hardwood maple stick, or fit-up, withstood windspeeds of 25.3mph.

Neither were bent or damaged in any way by turning inside out and sprang back instantly when turned into the wind.

Martin, the salesman, said when he sold them: "No one with any common sense would take an umbrella out in this weather."

The company repairs broken ribs for £5 each but only on umbrellas it has made. It said that umbrellas were not good for windy weather because the gusts simply blow the rain beneath them.

"Even on a calm day, a gust of wind might come along and

blow the umbrella inside out."

The technician said that of all the umbrellas, the one with the maple stick felt safest and was the easiest to control in the wind. He questioned whether price made much difference when a £3 umbrella made in China, sold from a stall outside Oxford Circus underground station, withstood a windspeed of 24mph and sprang back, only slightly bent.

A £5.99 umbrella from Silverdale Travel Goods in Oxford Street, patterned with the names of London underground stations in red white

and blue, and manufactured in the Far East, blew inside out at 13.3mph but sprang back unbroken. The salesman had offered to replace it if it collapsed in the wind.

A £5.99 telescopic umbrella from Boots fared little better and blew inside out at 14.7mph. The saleswoman had said: "You can bring it back if there is a fault in the umbrella but not if the wind breaks it. That is not our fault."

Dr Garry said as he surveyed the battered umbrellas: "It seems a shame, especially as I do not own an umbrella."

He said he thought after the tests that many umbrellas could be dangerous in the wind, especially where fabric is blown off the ribs leaving metal spikes sticking out. "Umbrellas are just not an aerodynamic shape. They are a good shape for a folding canopy."

Dr Garry, who has recently received funding to look at the crosswind effects on high-sided vehicles, said he concluded that a big umbrella would give a lot of cover from the rain, but could break in high winds.

Small umbrellas might not give such good shelter, but could withstand high winds because the person using it acted as a windshield.

Cost and size versus speed and force

Umbrella	Price (£)	Size (sq.m.)	Wind Speed (mph)	Force (Newtons)
T Fox & Co whangee	30.50	0.60	28.0	116
T Fox & Co Maple	42.50	0.64	25.3	93
Oxford Circus street seller	3.00	0.56	24.0	83
BHS Novelty Telescopic	2.99	0.50	32.0	150
Burton long black, man's	5.99	0.50	9.6	14
Marks & Spencer telescopic	7.99	0.59	10.9	23
Rush Me telescopic	2.99	0.68	10.2	14
Silverdale telescopic	5.99	0.64	13.3	25
Boots telescopic	5.99	0.57	14.7	31

*Red from £7.99

Donaldson issues warning

The power to review decisions by ministers or local authorities should remain the preserve of specialist High Court judges, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, said last night (Frances Gibb writes).

He told the annual dinner of the Administrative Law Bar Association that the powers of judges exercising this judicial review jurisdiction were "virtually unlimited".

"But this carries with it an enormous responsibility to be restrained and sensitive in their use, lest the administration of the

country becomes impossible and a constitutional crisis be provoked."

His comments came amid much debate about whether the county court should have power to consider judicial review applications that challenge decisions of local authorities on homelessness.

Bodies such as the National Consumer Council, the Law Society and the Bar supported amendments to the Courts and Legal Services Bill to give the county courts that power.

Four share £4,000

There were four winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition. Mrs Louise Champion, of Holme Lacy, near Hereford, intends to give half her winnings to her daughter's family. According to Mrs Elizabeth Collier, of Romsey in Hampshire, celebrating her third Portfolio success, "Perseverance is the name of the game." She has earmarked the money for field work in her study of the impact on small West German towns of immigrants from East Germany. They share the money with Mr Graham Barry, of Liverpool, and the Rev Canon Alastair Henderson, of Stoke Bishop, near Bristol. Each receives £1,000.

£15,000 to dismissed manager

A production manager unfairly dismissed by a steering wheel company has been awarded £15,126 by an industrial tribunal.

Mr Jim Cumming, of Douglas Close, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, was sacked after failing to meet production targets set by Mountray Ltd when it took over his former employer, Alexander Technology, of Coldstream, Borders.

The industrial tribunal at Edinburgh ruled that a three-month deadline to increase production was unrealistic, due to high staff turnover.

Fraud charges

Frank Peters, former managing director of a computer firm at Cwmbran, Gwent, was remanded on bail by magistrates yesterday on fraud and deception charges involving more than £1 million.

Attacker jailed

Leigham Howitt, aged 41, was jailed for a year yesterday for assaulting his neighbours who used a garden strimmer at 9.30pm in Tiverton, Devon.

Not guilty

Mr Patrick Boylan, a building worker of Kilburn, north-west London, was cleared by the Central Criminal Court of murdering a neighbour.

85 jobs cut

Eighty-five jobs are to be cut by the hosiery makers Aristocrat at plants in Langley Mill and Peper, Derbyshire.

Kidney given

Mrs Nan Tompkinson, of Croxall, Leicestershire, has given a kidney to her daughter Ellen, aged 14.

Manchester to Moscow link

Trans-Europe M-way forecast

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Motorists could be travelling on a trans-continental Manchester to Moscow motorway by the next century, if plans by the International Road Federation to integrate mainland Europe's road network are put into effect, it was claimed yesterday.

A new motorway and major road network for Eastern Europe, integrated with the existing motorway and road network in the West, would also symbolize the end of the continent's divided economic development, and help stimulate mutual economic growth, advocates of the system say.

However, environmental pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth are alarmed at the prospect. Mr Jeremy Vanke, its transport campaigner, said the environ-

mental consequences could be disastrous if Eastern Europe copied the large-scale road construction and mass car production of the West.

Mr Maurits Westerhuis, director of IRF, the international roads lobby, said it was quite unrealistic to expect separate economic development, or the lack of it, to continue after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

"One of the primary ingredients needed for economic growth in Eastern Europe will be rapid development of infrastructure, and a concerted effort will have to be initiated to construct an adequate road network by the turn of the century," Mr Westerhuis said.

He said the IRF, based in Geneva, had begun drawing

up an inventory of existing road infrastructure in the East, with the intention of presenting a detailed plan of Eastern Europe's road needs at the forthcoming IRF conference, scheduled for May 1991 in Belgrade.

The scale of road construction envisaged is so vast that "both public and private financial resources will have to be tapped, and all available expertise, equipment and services mobilized, to tackle this daunting task," Mr Westerhuis said.

Assistance could also be extended to Moscow, which has already asked the IRF for help in building a toll motorway between the Soviet Union and Poland, which could eventually be linked up with the motorway network in

Western Europe. Mr Westerhuis said.

He believes that the European Community is some 30 years ahead of Eastern Europe in road construction, and Warsaw Pact countries could not be expected to catch up without "large-scale Western financial assistance".

However, Mr Vanke said: "Current levels of traffic in the West alone are environmentally unacceptable, and any major expansion of the road network in Eastern Europe can only worsen the situation."

"Moreover, there will be an inevitable increase in car production, and those cars will not be subject to the new European Community exhaust emission standards," Mr Vanke said.

Mussolini's missive from the king

SALE ROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Marked "urgensissimo", it was an invitation for talks with King Victor Emmanuel, and was sent by Generalle Ciriaco, the king's aide-de-camp.

Later, in his autobiography of 1929, the dictator rephrased its contents writing "his Majesty the king asked me immediately to come to Rome ... to form a ministry".

The telegram is estimated at £8,000 to £10,000. However, as Mussolini's fee fetched £48,600 at Phillips last year, it could go for much more. It comes from a collection of

material relating to the Italian dictator, acquired by an anonymous vendor.

The consignment includes Mussolini's identity card at the time when he stood as a socialist in the 1913 elections.

He appears in a half-tone photograph with a bristling moustache but receding hair. His anti-militarist line failed to attract the votes so he turned to Fascism. This is estimated at £1,000 to £1,200.

Sotheby's is offering a Queen's Gallantry Medal pair

awarded to a corporal in the Staffordshire Regiment after a tour of duty in Northern Ireland.

Corporal G.A. Meredith was commended in 1975 for "the highest standard of leadership, fortitude, compassion, personal courage and stamina", and in particular for the incident during which, when the patrol was under fire, he ran forward to save a girl.

A spokesman said that his reason for selling is "probably financial. They usually are".

Corporal Meredith stands to gain £1,400 to £1,600.

Meanwhile, prints by young Scottish artists such as Stephen Courty, Peter Howson, Gwen Hardie and Adrian Wislowski, can be bought from the Vanessa Deveraux Gallery, in London, in an exhibition of work from the Edinburgh Printmakers Workshop.

● The Diorama Arts Trust based in Regent's Park, London, is chaired by Sir Clement Freud. It is launching a £9.5 million appeal for an ambitious new arts centre after 10 years of battling with the Crown Estate Commissioners who own the disjointed rooms which make up the site.

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1. If you need immediate advice ring one of these Response Centres: Sutton 0345 010199, Birmingham 0345 212199, Bristol 0345 717177 or Leeds 0345 919555. (Local call charges only will apply).

2. If the damaged property is not weatherproof you should get it protected immediately.

3. Dry out any property as best you can and keep it well ventilated. If it is fitted carpets that are damaged do not lift these unless absolutely essential.

4. If you have severe structural damage to buildings you are advised to seek immediate professional advice.


5. Eagle Star "HOMESTAR" policies cover damage caused by storm or flood other than damage to gates fences or hedges.

We will also pay the cost of removing fallen trees that have caused damage to the buildings for which we are liable under the policy.

6. Eagle Star "MOTORSTAR" motor policies cover loss/damage caused by storm or flood provided the cover is on a comprehensive basis. You will have to pay any policy excess.

7. If you require any more advice, you can phone your Response Centre, or the appropriate 24 hour Helpline Service shown in your Homestar Policy document.

8. Cut out, complete and send in the claim form. (Suitable for either motor or household claim).

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Policy Number <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> If arranged through a Building Society give name and Roll No. <input type="text"/>	
Name of Insured <input type="text"/>	
Address <input type="text"/>	
Postcode <input type="text"/> Tel. No. (Work) <input type="text"/> (Home) <input type="text"/>	
are you registered for Value Added Tax. YES/NO. If yes, status <input type="text"/>	
Loss/Damage. Day <input type="text"/> Month <input type="text"/> Year <input type="text"/> Time <input type="text"/>	
How loss/damage occurred <input type="text"/>	
Please provide details of claim on a separate sheet under the following headings / Description of property damaged / If not sole owner give details of other interests / when purchased / Estimated cost of repairs / amount claimed /	
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Make model and cc. <input type="text"/> Date vehicle first registered <input type="text"/>	
Registration No. <input type="text"/> Value <input type="text"/> Nature of damage <input type="text"/>	
estimated cost of repair (forward garage estimate) £ <input type="text"/> Is the vehicle still in use YES/NO <input type="text"/>	
If No, where is vehicle now <input type="text"/>	
Full name of driver or person in charge. MR/MRS/MISS <input type="text"/>	
Date of birth <input type="text"/> Date passed UK driving test <input type="text"/>	
Is the property claimed for covered by any other policy YES/NO. If yes please complete below.	
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EAGLE STAR. ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA. ESPECIALLY TODAY.

Cowboy Ortega riding high as election nears

From Charles Bremner
Managua

With his brother *comandantes* of the Sandinista Front behind him, President Ortega presented the good news to the Nicaraguans this week. Inflation had slumped to only 700 per cent. Given that the rate topped 36,000 per cent in 1988, Señor Ortega had a point. It is one that may have earned him some capital in the campaign for next month's elections, an event that gives Nicaragua its first serious chance to opt out of the half-way communism applied by the Sandinistas since they led the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza in 1979. However, to the dismay of the United States and the joy of beleaguered left-wingers everywhere, Nicaragua appears ready to buck the historic tide and put its Marxist back in office.

Those surreal inflation figures make it easier to understand why the Sandinistas have adopted an original slogan for a long incumbent Government: "¿Todo sera mejor?" or "Everything will be better." They chant it as Daniel, elevated to single-name status like Fidel, enters dusty towns, usually astride a fine horse and clad in stetson and the neckerchief of the cowboy guerrilla.

To replace Daniel and his diluted state



Señora Chamorro: Unlike her rival, not one poster of her graces Managua.

socialism, Nicaragua's 1.75 million voters are being offered a free-market government run by a fractious coalition of middle-class businessmen and professionals under the presidency of Señora Violeta Chamorro. The aristocratic Doña Violeta is publisher of *La Prensa*, the opposition paper, and widow of Pedro Joachim, the editor whose murder sparked the 1978 uprising. After a year in which the people have

been hounding their communist rulers from power across Eastern Europe, the leaders of Central America's only left-wing revolutionary state might seem ripe for the same order of the boot. A decade under Sandinista power, Cuban advice and mainly Soviet money, has seen the Nicaraguan economy crumble. Production has dropped to 1950s levels, thousands of hungry people are eking out a life on rice and beans, tens of thousands have fled, infant mortality has jumped and consumer goods have receded into distant memory or the special dollar shops.

On top of that, the Sandinistas have imposed much of the repressive controls that has always accompanied the Leninist state, from routine indoctrination to a feared security police.

Yet, four weeks from election day, polls show Señor Ortega streaking ahead. On Wednesday, Greenberg Lake, the US firm, reported him holding 51 per cent of the potential presidential vote compared with 24 per cent for Señora Chamorro. Part of the reason for the Sandinista strength is plain ineptitude by the 11 parties that form Señora Chamorro's National Opposition Union.

When he is not kissing babies or dancing with beautiful women, Daniel is posing as the warrior brandishing his

AK-47. He did that this week while charging President Bush with sending the Contras to assassinate him. While Daniel's face appears on almost every bit of blank wall, not one portrait of Señora Chamorro can be seen in Managua.

The National Opposition Union is handicapped by having to oppose a party that identifies itself with the state, using all the resources it provides, from patronage to transport and control over television. If Washington decides to call foul after a Sandinista victory, it will certainly cite this lack of a level playing field. With foreign observers, from the United Nations to Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President, thick on the ground, nobody expects much polling-day fraud.

To add to the party's woes, the US Congress applied so many of its own restrictions to its \$9 million (£5.5 million) aid to the party that the money has been held up for weeks, a situation aggravated by Sandinista red tape. Commandante Bayardo Arce, the party chief and a senior figure in the leadership, laughs as he pictures the US auditors sent by Congress scurrying around in Nicaragua making sure the aid goes to "strengthening democracy" and not direct campaigning. "It seems the Americans don't even trust their own people," he said. The first few thousand

dollars trickled in this week, perhaps too late, one National Opposition Union official said, to help it win. Accepting US money was a calculated risk in the first place. It enabled the Sandinistas to brand the opposition as US stooges whose goal is to hand the country over to the CIA and vengeful Somoza men.

"These are the same people who used to rule the land, the same who were killing peasants and students, who were running the Contras," says Señor Sergio Ramirez, the vice-presidential candidate. "These gentlemen are like people who burn your house down at night and then come back the next morning and offer to rebuild it."

The taint of the Contras has proved the opposition's strongest handicap. The Greenberg poll reported that only 8 per cent of the population had a favourable view of former President Reagan's "freedom fighters" whose attacks have killed some 30,000 Nicaraguans.

Señor Alfredo César, aged 39, Señora Chamorro's chief strategist, says the party had no choice but to take the American money. "Anyway we have polls showing public opinion is not so against the US as you might think."

However in Panama, the US not only lived up to the Sandinista image of them as arrogant bullies, but the damage was

compounded when US forces ransacked the residence of the Nicaraguan Ambassador, an act that Señora Chamorro was obliged to condemn.

Señor Arce says, however, that the US will not be foolish enough to reject the election result here. Once Washington has digested the shock, he believes the Americans will lift the economic embargo that the Sandinistas blame for their woes, end aid to the Contras and restore relations. That seems likely given that Washington no longer feels menaced by a surge of tropical communism in its backyard.

The big difference between Nicaragua and the Eastern Bloc is the identity of the bad guys. In no Central American country have the Americans intervened and interfered as much as they did here. The expulsion of the Somoza family, the American protégés who milked the country for half a century, is still shared by all classes as a monument to national pride. In contrast, the Russians still enjoy the image of benefactors.

The Sandinistas and their supporters say the upheaval in Eastern Europe presents no problem because those countries are coming round to the mixture of state control and private enterprise that the Sandinistas have always tolerated.

Delhi set for onslaught on separatists in Kashmir

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

The Kashmir valley was brought to a standstill yesterday as huge numbers of troops, paramilitary forces and armed police swarmed through towns and villages to enforce a shoot-on-sight curfew.

The crackdown could be a prelude to a fierce government operation against Muslim extremists demanding separation of Kashmir from India. Clearly, a decisive point in the conflict has been reached.

Pakistan is watching developments with alarm. The situation has patently moved beyond a mere law-and-order crisis, and carries the seeds of a cross-border conflict. Certainly, India is facing one of the most serious separatist campaigns since independence.

Analogies are being drawn between events in Kashmir and the fateful tide of events before "Operation Blue Star", the military offensive launched in 1984 by Mrs

Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister, against Sikh extremists in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in Punjab.

The Government showed the grimness of its mood yesterday when journalists visiting Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, were ordered not to leave their hotels. Telephone and telex lines were cut.

Until now curfew passes have been issued to journalists covering the troubles, although reporters have been warned of the danger of being shot accidentally by security

forces. That danger was cited yesterday as the official justification for restricting the movements of the press.

The more likely reason was the Government's immense dislike of the kind of international attention being focused on the state of Jammu and Kashmir, where governments have long been riddled by corruption.

The virtual shut-down of the valley was imposed in anticipation of trouble on India's Republic Day yesterday, which extremists had declared would be observed as "black day".

The crisis in Kashmir is particularly explosive because the administrations in both Delhi and Islamabad are politically vulnerable, leaving them prey to internal and opposition pressures.

In Delhi, Mr V.P. Singh, who became Prime Minister less than two months ago, is under enormous internal pressure to clamp down on India's

Low road for Khashoggi



Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the financier who has been charged with helping to defraud the Philippines Government, making his way through a subway turnstile in New York after a court hearing and pre-trial meeting. He is free on bail awaiting his trial on March 14.

Tycoon's pitch for baseball team

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

The storm that swept America last autumn after Japanese companies scooped up a top Hollywood film studio and Manhattan's Rockefeller Centre could look like a breeze if Mr Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, a brash Japanese billionaire, pulls off a plan to buy a leading American baseball team.

That Mr Tsutsumi happens to be the world's richest and one of its most secretive tycoons will do little to diminish US concern that the Japanese are on a spree and have their eyes, as *Newsweek* put it, on a piece of America's soul.

According to reports here, Mr Tsutsumi - whose wealth derives from the Seibu Railway networks and hotels that his father developed, and from the luxurious golf courses and ski villages he set up to tap the new wealth of young Japanese - has his eye on buying into the Seattle Mariners, a league baseball club.

He already owns the Seibu Lions, a successful baseball team in Japan, where the game is now so popular that boys assume that Japan invented it, along with the other modern marvels. Americans in Tokyo are often asked if they play baseball back home.

Both sides in the reported negotiations deny a deal is in the pipeline, although any Japanese company involved in high-profile investment in the US has learned to tread carefully.

Mr Tsutsumi, a keen sportsman and last year's chairman of the Japan Olympic Committee, has been looking for a stake in a US team. He is said to have been interested when the Dallas Cowboys were up for sale last year.

He has chosen a tense time to pounce. Friction between the US and Japan over the trade gap was already simmering before Sony's \$5.4 billion (£2.12 billion) takeover of Columbia Films last October. The Mitsubishi Estate Company's \$46 million purchase of a controlling stake in the Rockefeller Group soon afterwards brought the trans-Pacific name-calling to a boil.

Both Japanese and US officials are aware that the purchase of a US baseball team by the Japanese could bring the US-Japan debate to a new pitch, and to a new American audience which might not recognize a balance sheet but would have something salty to say on the bleachers about a Japanese owner in the dugout.

Forbes magazine puts Mr Tsutsumi's personal net worth at \$15 billion. He has topped its list of the world's richest men for the past three years. But Japanese analysts estimate his empire at \$400 billion.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Iran jet hijackers die in shoot-out

Nicosia (Reuters) - Four gunmen tried to hijack an Iranian airliner but security guards killed them in a mid-air shoot-out over southern Iran, Tehran Radio said yesterday. It said the four "mercenaries of America" - a catch-all phrase for opposition groups fighting to overthrow the Islamic Government - took a flight attendant hostage on an Iran Air flight from the south-western city of Shiraz to the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas.

Quoting a Revolutionary Guard statement, Tehran Radio said flight guards overpowered and killed the four hijackers. None of the passengers was hurt and the Boeing 727 returned to Shiraz, the Iranian news agency IRNA said, adding that an investigation was under way to identify the men. Tehran Radio said the hijackers had taken advantage of a relaxation in airport checks to smuggle weapons aboard.

Aids breakthrough

Washington (AP) - A synthetic compound has been shown in laboratory experiments to prevent reproduction of the Aids virus, US researchers announced. The compound, a man-made peptide called U-51749, appears to block the final stage of a process the Aids virus uses to reproduce itself in human cells. It works differently from AZT, or zidovudine, which attacks an earlier stage in the life-cycle of the virus. "It (U-51749) drastically slows down and reduces the number of mature viral particles you get in an infection," said Mr Leonard Post, director of infectious disease research at Upjohn, the firm that developed the compound. He emphasized that it will be years before such a compound will be ready for human tests.

Publishing row brews

Paris - The long-running family feud at the prestigious house of Editions Gallimard has once again boiled over in public (Philip Jacobson writes). A first-class row is brewing following the decision of one of the four children of the elderly patriarch, M Claude Gallimard, to employ a New York merchant bank to value the publishing business with a view to attracting an outside buyer. According to Françoise Gallimard, the fortunes of the country's largest independent publishers are suffering because of endless "arguments and disputes" about its future. She is particularly irate about the current proposal by her younger brother, Antoine, to buy out her stake and that of the other Gallimard children for a price that her advisers calculate is far too low.

Violent strike ends

Johannesburg (AFP) - South Africa's bloodiest strike since 1922 ended yesterday when transport workers and the state-run South African Transport Services reached a compromise, an independent mediator said. At least 35 people died and scores were injured in violence related to the 12-week strike, over wages and formal recognition of the South African Railways and Harbour Workers Union, which has not registered with the Department of Manpower. The settlement provides for a return to work of some 3,000 workers still on strike and the reinstatement of 23,000 dismissed workers. The mediator, Mr Charles Nupen, said the employers had agreed to recognize and bargain on wages and conditions with the union.

MP jailed in Greece

Athens (Reuters) - Ahmet Sadiq, Greece's first independent Muslim MP, was jailed for 18 months yesterday and barred from politics after being convicted of disturbing the peace and inciting discord. Elected in June but disqualified from running again in new elections in November, he was deprived of his political rights for three years. He was alleged to have distributed pre-election material in Turkish describing the Muslim minority in northern Greece as Turks. The court rejected Sadiq's request to be released pending his appeal, which may be heard next week.

Saarland election

Challenger has sights on Bonn

From Ian Murray, Saarbrücken

Tomorrow's election in the Saarland is being called here "the clash of elephants". It is, indeed, a heavyweight contest, but more of a boxing match between the stolid champion of the safe right and the aspiring young challenger of the dangerous left.

Paradoxically, the stolid champion, Herr Klaus Töpper of the Christian Democrats (CDU) is not in power here, but he does represent the Federal Government and is trying to do well enough tomorrow to defend Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, from the sitting Social Democrat (SPD) Prime Minister of the Saarland.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine is not satisfied with just being in power here. His real challenge tomorrow is for the West German chancellorship. He sees the election as the start of a knock-out contest ending in Bonn next December, when he wants to take on Herr Kohl.

First Oskar, as Herr Lafontaine is universally called, has to conquer the Saarland outright. It will not be sufficient as he did in 1985 to get just 49.2 per cent of the vote. He needs the absolute majority over all the other seven parties contesting the election. However, only the SPD and CDU matter, with the Free Democrats (FDP) hinting they would be happy to serve with either if it meant sharing some power.

The importance of an outright win by Herr Lafontaine was clear from the fact that both he and Herr Töpper began their final campaign speeches at rallies here this week with almost the same phrase.

"We will win an absolute majority," Herr Lafontaine told 2,000 confident supporters crammed into the Saarlandhalle.

"We must break the absolute majority," said Herr Töpper to the thousand or so determined supporters squeezed into the Kongresshalle next door to the most expensive hotel.

Herr Lafontaine was backed by the SPD leader, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, who knows that he will have to stand aside if Oskar wins tomorrow's vote outright. Herr Vogel is already being gracious. It is high time that the Saarland produced its first Chancellor, he told the happy party faithful.

Herr Töpper was fronted by Herr Kohl, who was the man the crowd had really come to see. "Hel-mut! Hel-mut!" they chanted ecstatically as they clapped their hero into the hall. The Chancellor seemed almost embarrassed.

The two rallies were a contrast in styles which epitomized the difference between the men and their policies. The SPD meeting was full of razzmatazz and technology. The more conservative CDU rally had a banner behind the platform reading simply: "Klaus Töpper, one of the trustworthy".

Women of Bougainville count human cost of conflict

From Robert Cockburn
Arawa, Bougainville Island

"I told him so many times to cut this," Mrs Sarah Materiva said as she played with her brother's dreadlocks. "This is why I think he was killed."

Sampson Materiva's naked body was laid on the stainless steel examination table in Arawa's general hospital morgue yesterday for formal identification. As the women of the family gathered around, wailing their grief, someone lifted the towel off his chest revealing a wound above his heart.

The Government says Materiva was shot trying to escape from the security forces sent from the Papua New Guinea mainland to put down Bougainville Island's secessionist rebels. Materiva, an Arawa bus driver, is one of the many Bougainville people who have been killed,

beaten, held without trial or simply disappeared since the Government in Port Moresby declared a state of emergency here last June.

Papua New Guinea is a Commonwealth country with a lively Westminster-style parliamentary system. But its principal source of income, the vast open-cut copper mine carved out of mountainous jungle at Panguna, was closed by rebels nine months ago. The effect has been crippling. The security forces have been responsible for acts of arbitrary brutality in the offensive to put down the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and save the mine.

Yet, despite Australia's military training and aid - an extra \$12 million (about £5.7 million) was given as the crisis worsened last week - rebel strength and boldness only grew. Mr Sam Kaona, their leader, was also trained as an officer

and explosives expert by the Australian Army and has blown up targets day and night.

There is evidence of 10 people dying in suspicious circumstances in custody. There are also reports of women and children being fired upon from Australian-supplied helicopters in villages deep in the jungle. Villages have been burnt down and 4,000 people made homeless.

But investigation of many more cases is hampered by families who are simply too afraid to claim their dead for fear of reprisals.

The seemingly uncontrolled brutality of the security forces is losing the political battle to try to keep Bougainville Island a willing part of Papua New Guinea. So on Thursday the Government of Mr Rabbin Namaliu, the Prime Minister, appealed to families of victims to come forward to identify bodies which it

says have been unclaimed for several weeks now. It is a test of confidence for the law and order which affects the whole country.

In the morgue yesterday, families waited silently to inspect the bodies while the women wailed for Sampson Materiva.

Soldiers broke Materiva's nose when his bus was stopped at a roadblock near Kieta airport. "I told him, you must not go back to the airport," his sister said in a quiet voice. "But Tuesday, that was the last time, he went to the airport and they were waiting for him at the Kieta bus stop. He told them: 'Who's going to pay for this damage you made on me on Friday?' He was taken out of the bus, punched, and they drove him off to his death. Now he is here in the morgue. It broke my heart." A hospital attendant came in to spray the crowded room with

Shadow of Moscow's Afghan war looms over Azerbaijan

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Soviet officials consistently dismiss suggestions that the conflict in the Transcaucasus is primarily a religious problem between Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis, emphasizing instead the territorial dispute (over the ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh), social factors (the presence in Baku of embittered Azerbaijani refugees who fled from Armenia last year), and nationwide economic difficulties.

Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said this week that to interpret the violence as the result of a religious quarrel would be tantamount to dividing the world into Christians on one side and Muslims on the other, and risk starting a new Crusade.

While Soviet commentators have mentioned the religious element in the conflict, if only to dismiss it, they have

passed in silence over another equally pertinent aspect, not only of the fighting, but of the tentative Islamic revival there. This is the long-term effect on the southern republics of Moscow's war in Afghanistan — a war in which the enemy was the Mujahidin guerrillas fighting a holy war against infidel invaders and their Afghan surrogates.

The legacy of the Afghan war is to be found not just in the ubiquity of firearms in republics adjoining the Afghan and Iranian borders, and the presence of many young men with recent experience of combat and time on their hands; it appears also to have inspired a sense of mission and nationalist purpose which Moscow will find very hard to dissipate.

One of the leaders of the Azerbaijan Popular Front, who escaped from Baku to Moscow after the Soviet military assault, said this week that the Azerbaijanis would fight to the death unless Soviet troops were withdrawn, adding that, if President Gorbachev

wanted a "second Afghanistan", he would get it in Azerbaijan.

Secondary effects of the Afghanistan war, while so far less serious than in the Transcaucasus, are felt throughout the Soviet Union's Asian republics. Only

Ankara (AFP) — Muslims at mosques throughout the Turkish capital yesterday appealed to the world's Muslims to protest against Soviet intervention in Azerbaijan. Across the nation, worshippers attending Friday prayers heard their leaders honour Muslim Azerbaijanis killed in the ethnic conflict and condemn the dispatch of Soviet tanks against innocent people. At one mosque protesters set fire to the Soviet flag.

this week the official media have given details of two incidents connected with the aftermath of the Soviet intervention.

In Tajikistan, Abdulkhamid Davlatov, a Soviet citizen, was reported to have been sentenced to eight years in

prison for spying for Pakistan. The case against him was that he had been recruited by an Afghan Mujahidin leader, trained at an intelligence centre in Pakistan and returned to the Soviet Union to establish an underground Islamic group and commit acts of sabotage.

The publicity given to the case and suggests this was no isolated incident.

Another court case also reported last week concerned Soviet diplomats at a consulate in Afghanistan who had been caught smuggling large quantities of hashish over the border into Uzbekistan. According to the report, the drugs were actually smuggled by Uzbeks, who bought gold jewellery to exchange for hashish in Afghanistan. They then exploited the customs immunity enjoyed by the diplomats, for whom they worked, using their cars to get the drug back into the Soviet Union. All were given long jail terms.

The two diplomats — both Russians —

were the consul and vice-consul in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif. They were found guilty of smuggling antiques and artefacts out of Afghanistan, but because they repaid their profit of 32,000 roubles (roughly £3,200), they were not imprisoned. But they still face censure and possible expulsion from the Communist Party.

These two episodes, reported in a single week, are evidence of the pernicious effects of Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, which go far beyond the immediate material, physical and psychological damage. Unless they are isolated incidents, the southern republics appear to be facing a range of problems which include groups of armed men roving out of control, drug smuggling, espionage and sabotage by Islamic fundamentalists.

A further by-product of the Afghan war has been disillusionment, especially among educated Russians, with the idea of using armed force

anywhere, in almost any circumstances. The use of troops in the Azerbaijani capital has been widely condemned in these circles, and even many who accept that force may have been necessary to restore order to city running wild have questioned the way the decision was taken and the use made of the troops.

The notion that the Soviet Army is always heroic, always victorious and always in the right has been lost. Given this change of mood, which accompanied the withdrawal from Afghanistan and the disclosure of more information about combat conditions and casualties, there is a cruel twist in the fact that Soviet troops may be sent into combat so soon in a similarly hostile environment.

Still more cruel, to those nationalists who seek to wage a guerrilla war in pursuit of Azerbaijani independence, is the fact that, after Afghanistan, the Soviet Army is far better equipped to fight back.

Romania to start 'Nuremberg trials' on era of genocide

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

A spectacular series of trials described officially as "East Europe's Nuremberg" begin this afternoon when four leading figures of the Ceausescu era appear in the dock of a special 700-seat military court in Bucharest to face charges of complicity to commit genocide.

Official sources said that blanket security would be in force around the court in the capital's Military Academy in case of attempts by members of the public to seek their own revenge on men held partially responsible for thousands of deaths in the December revolution and 60,000 more during Ceausescu's reign.

The opening of the proceedings will be shown live on Romanian television and be translated simultaneously into English and French for the 80 journalists who have been allocated seats. There were chaotic scenes yesterday as those without places attempted to bribe officials to secure an entry permit.

An official said the trial was expected to be the first of about 800 planned against Communist Party and Securitate members and those of the Ceausescu clan now in jail.

The trials have been delayed for a number of reasons, including the difficulty of obtaining evidence due to the lack of trained interrogators left in the judicial system and the fact that a number of Ceausescu's most senior henchmen have been found unable to write despite having university doctorates.

Official announcements on the front pages of yesterday's papers named the four men to

appear in court today as Mr Tudor Postelnicu, the former Interior Minister and nominal head of the Securitate; Mr Emil Bobu, No 3 in the Ceausescu hierarchy; Mr Manea Manescu, a former Vice-President, and Mr Ion Dinca, a former First Deputy Prime Minister. All were members of the Politburo of the now near-defunct Communist Party.

Although the interim Government has been making efforts to ensure that the trials do not repeat the summary justice meted out to the Ceausescus, there remained concern in diplomatic circles

Bucharest (Reuters) — Mr Dumitru Mazilu, Romania's Vice-President, handed in his resignation yesterday and accused the ruling National Salvation Front of using Stalinist methods. "I hereby hand in my resignation from this position, which, as I have mentioned from the first day, I did not desire," he said.

that the proceedings might end up owing as much to Stalin's show trials as the prosecution of those accused of crimes in the Second World War. A foretaste was given in a lengthy jail interview yesterday with Mr Manescu in the Bucharest paper, *Romania Libera*, under the headline: "Accused close to the hour of truth". One of the first questions concerned whether he had read about the proceedings at Nuremberg.

The official move to equate the two sets of judicial proceedings was launched by Mr Gheoghe Robu, the Pros-

ecutor-General, who has emerged as one of the most competent members of an interim administration marred by inexperience and inner contradictions.

Mr Manescu was asked whether the acceptance of an order from a superior did or did not protect an official carrying it out from its consequences. He replied that such an order imposed obligations, but that those receiving them had the right to oppose them if they were wrong.

Much of the bizarre interview consisted of a stream of invective against the executed dictator, whom his former Vice-President described as a combination of "Stalin and Hitler". Mr Manescu claimed that from the outset when he first met Ceausescu in 1944, he had gained the impression of an uncultivated man. "He was a paranoid, psychology, cally ill, wilful and abusive," he told the paper. "Besides his wife and relatives, he did not have any friends."

Mr Manescu went on to describe the tyrant as a fanatic and a compulsive political intriguer who was totally under the sway of his wife.

After last month's abolition of the death penalty in the wake of the execution of the Ceausescus, those found guilty in the forthcoming trials will face a maximum sentence of hard labour for life.

The passage of five weeks since the revolution has done little to still the demand among ordinary Romanians for revenge. Many of those interviewed in the capital yesterday continued to demand public executions.

Quest for peace pact in Armenian conflict



Representatives of the Azerbaijan People's Front of Nakhichevan and the Armenian National Movement facing each other across the negotiating table.

Kremlin aims to crush Popular Front in Baku

Continued from page 1
security men, backed up by police, surrounded the Azerbaijani mission in the capital and mounted two raids, arresting one of the leaders of the Azerbaijan Popular Front.

The raids came within hours of reports that the first ceasefire had been agreed on two sections of the border between the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile parliamentary deputies from the inter-regional group — the radical faction in the Congress of People's Deputies which is led by Mr Boris Yeltsin, revealed in Moscow that they had delivered a statement to the

Vice-President Anatoli Lukyanov, questioning the decision to use force in Baku and calling for an emergency meeting of the Supreme Soviet to discuss the crisis.

A spokesman for the Azerbaijani mission, the official representation of the republic in Moscow, was reluctant to go into details, but said that the only one of four or five people detained in the raids still in custody was Mr Ekhtibar Mamedov, a member of the Popular Front's directorate.

Mr Mamedov had given a press conference in Moscow the previous day at which he pledged a fight to the last man

if Soviet troops were not withdrawn at once.

A senior member of the Supreme Soviet, breaking the news of the raids, said he had been telephoned constantly between 11pm on Thursday and 4am yesterday to be told of police cars and men in steel helmets and flak jackets carrying machine-guns surrounding the Azerbaijani mission.

Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, later confirmed that Mr Mamedov, who is regarded as a moderate within the Azerbaijani nationalist movement, had been arrested.

The Moscow raids, which appear to have been officially

sponsored, were an extraordinary move for the Soviet authorities to take against the representation of one of the country's constituent republics, and are likely further to inflame passions.

A human chain around the Defence Ministry in Moscow had already been planned for today in protest at the use of Soviet troops in Baku.

An official communiqué from the military commandant in Baku, Lieutenant-General Dubinsky, said yesterday that the situation in the city was returning to normal.

Attempts were being made to improve the provision of information by increasing the

numbers of newspapers published and by recommencing television transmissions, he added.

He disclosed, however, that two unofficial newspapers had been banned and that nearly 500 people had been detained in the city under the state of emergency.

The ceasefire was said to have gone into effect on two stretches of the Azerbaijan-Armenia border on Thursday evening and was the first sign that the violence between the two Soviet republics might be abating. It was negotiated between local representatives of the popular fronts of both republics.

Letter from Bucharest

Endeavour by artists to restore Paris of Balkans

The huge plate glass windows of the central gallery of the Romanian Artists' Union still bear the marks of the December revolution, with slogans like "Down with the era of starvation, cold and darkness" scrawled in blue paint.

Inside, the first post-revolutionary art exhibition, an avant-garde display of the works of 10 of the country's foremost abstract painters, represents the determination of Bucharest's oppressed intellectual community to restore to the city its 1930s reputation as "the Paris of the Balkans".

One of the artists, Virgil Preda, aged 66, explained, "Under the Ceausescu we would never have been able to exhibit paintings like this here, because the gallery is too close to the former Central Committee headquarters of the Communist Party."

"But because the dictator and his wife were Philistines, who had no real conception of what art was, we were able to continue exhibiting abstract work at small private exhibitions. They described us as 'parasites' and deprived us of materials, but they were unable to suppress us entirely," he added.

Like most sections of Romanian society, the artists made concessions to the dictator, but they claim that money received from official work done under duress was used for travel to help them keep abreast of art trends in Europe and the US.

The artist said, "Bucharest was one of the main centres of Dadaism in the thirties. It has a deep-rooted tradition in the avant-garde which the communist tyrants could not destroy. For that reason, we have been able to quickly mount an exhibition like this. We are not having to start from square one."

Foreign art experts at the show, called A Dialogue on Attitudes, were impressed by the skill and technique of the artists, most of whom live in impoverished conditions. They were judged to be more advanced than those in other communist countries where cultural freedom has been repressed.

Inevitably, the sudden availability of Romanian art on the open market has attracted dealers from the West where a new fashion in post-revolutionary painting is predicted. Some are taking advantage of an unregulated

currency black market to purchase works for export at favourable rates.

Questioned about this, a young administrator at the gallery shrugged her shoulders and said, "If that is capitalism, it is very much better than what we had before. Many of these painters were unable to sell enough of their works to feed their families properly."

Romania's cultural re-awakening has been helped by historical and linguistic ties with France and has not been restricted to the plastic, or even highbrow arts. Theatres have been rehearsing and presenting some of the long list of plays banned by Ceausescu. Hugely popular jazz and rock concerts have been staged and banned films shown.

The biggest transformation has occurred on Romanian television, which before the revolution was restricted to 27 hours of programming a week which was mainly devoted to the dictator's own speeches and appearances. Entertainment was restricted to 15 minutes a day.

Struggling with antiquated technology which Western experts estimate would take \$50 million (£30 million) to bring up to date, the staff at the heavily guarded station have increased the weekly output to more than 80 hours.

Although picture quality is poor, the eclectic range of programming is compulsive viewing. Videos of a Pink Floyd concert can be followed by a live transmission of a government announcement or a camera tour of one of the Ceausescus' family residences.

Word of the cultural revival has spread rapidly. Leading Western television executives have visited to see what help can be provided and arrangements made for Ion Caramitru, Romania's leading classical actor, to take his highly-rated *Hamlet* to London's National Theatre this summer.

Bucharest's cafe and restaurant life will require drastic readjustment to reach Parisian standards. However, the Restaurant Capa, founded in 1852 and fashionable during the period when Olivia Manning's Balkan trilogy was set, is still in business despite the shortages, serving dishes of venison paté, wild boar and pheasant casserole to a Bohemian clientele.

Christopher Walker

Immigrants put to Jewish test by Israel

From Richard Owen
Jerusalem

In a corner of a synagogue in a Jerusalem side street, a group of new Jewish immigrants, or *olim*, from the Soviet Union, is crowded around a rabbi, painstakingly following the unfamiliar Hebrew script as he takes them through the day's reading from the Torah, the Pentateuch of Moses.

In a nearby restaurant, another group of relatives and friends is gathered for another Jewish ritual: in a ceremony held in a side room, they watch in fascination as a second rabbi performs a circumcision on a Russian Jewish infant. Then the bemused Russians drink a toast and try to get their tongues round the child's unfamiliar new Hebrew name.

Soviet Jews are arriving in Israel in their hundreds every day, freed by the Gorbachev reforms but prevented by new United States immigration laws from entering America. The Israeli authorities expect well in excess of 100,000 to arrive this year alone, some of them refugees from the fighting in the southern Soviet republics.

Yesterday controversy gathered pace over alleged Israeli plans to settle the new immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. But Israeli

officials emphasized another problem: the fact that most of the new arrivals have never before seen the inside of a synagogue, have never mastered Hebrew and have never been circumcised.

In the atheistic Soviet Union, in fact, many Jews are hardly aware of their Jewishness, at least until they are persecuted for it, and have never adopted Jewish practices. As a result, those few Israeli rabbis who specialize in the surgical removal of the foreskin

are being swamped by demand for the operation — on teenagers and adults as well as infants.

Problems have arisen, however, for the rabbinical authorities in coping with the flood of new arrivals and in establishing how many of them really are Jewish.

In one recent case, a large Russian family was allotted temporary housing in Haifa on the assumption that its members were Jewish, but they were, however, subsequently discovered to

be members of the Russian Orthodox Church.

A more common problem stems from mixed marriages in the Soviet Union between Jews and non-Jews, in which the offspring come to consider themselves to be Jewish. The description "Jewish" in a Soviet passport is based on the holder's own declarations, and many are taken aback on arrival in Israel to find that they are unable to prove to the rabbis that their mother was Jewish, one of the main criteria.

Mr Arie Deri, the Israeli Interior Minister, an Orthodox Jew, caused alarm and offence among liberal Israelis this week by suggesting that "authentic Jews" among the new *olim* should be separated through "selection", a word which for many Israelis has Nazi connotations.

Some Israeli officials fear that such problems, coupled with well-publicized shortages in Israel of housing and jobs, could deter potential immigrants. Mr Zevulun Hammer, the Religious Affairs Minister, is currently in Moscow in an unprecedented visit to try to resolve problems of identity, conversion to Judaism, mixed marriage and circumcision.

Yesterday Mr Shimon Peres, the Finance Minister and Labour Party leader, said he did not believe the

numbers of immigrants from the Soviet Union would drop. Israel, he added, would somehow find the funds to absorb new arrivals, despite US threats to cut aid to Israel if Russian Jews were settled in the West Bank. He described such threats as "unacceptable", and said new immigrants could live where they chose.

Officials said that in any case the vast majority of Russian immigrants was opting for the big Israeli coastal cities, such as Haifa and Netanya.

● Rabbis are swamped by the demand for circumcision, on adults as well as children ●

which already had large Russian communities. Only 1 per cent were heading for the occupied territories, partly because of lack of jobs there, partly because of constant conflict with the Arabs, and partly because most Soviet Jews prefer urban living.

None the less, officials said all able-bodied males among the new arrivals would have to serve in the Army in the occupied territories, patrolling Arab towns and discovering at first hand the realities of the *intifada*.

No tears as Polish communist party leaves stage

From A Correspondent, Warsaw

The Polish communist party, which ruled for more than 40 years and has been blamed for the deaths of 60,000 Poles who dared to defy it, is set to vote itself out of existence today in favour of a new Western-style, left-wing party.

The disbanding of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), following hard on the heels of the recent disappearance of the Hungarian and Romanian communist parties, is the latest indication of the demise of communism in Eastern Europe.

"The PZPR is becoming a closed chapter of history," Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the party leader, said at a news conference on the eve of its

11th and final congress, to be held in the Soviet-built Palace of Culture in central Warsaw.

Posters have sprung up on walls around the capital accusing the PZPR of being a servant of Moscow since its formation in 1948. It also call on the people to attend an anti-party rally near the Palace today.

Historians estimate that, on the order of the PZPR, some 60,000 Poles who were considered "opponents of socialism" were killed.

But Mr Rakowski said the party was not to blame because the imposition of the Moscow-backed communist Government in Poland was a revolution and "there is no

revolution without bloodshed." Mr Leszek Miller, the party secretary and considered one of its leading reformers, said its dissolution would be announced today and a successor formed by Monday.

He predicted a clash between reformers and hardliners: "There will not be a funeral calm nor funeral unanimity at the congress."

Mr Tadeusz Fiszbach, a communist liberal who signed the historic Gdansk accords in 1980 that led to formation of the independent Solidarity trade union, is the top candidate for the job of new party leader.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, is backing

Mr Fiszbach, describing him as "a man of a dialogue" who could have helped bring the country much further along if he had been in power during the past decade.

Mr Rakowski, while not endorsing any other candidates, has refused to take himself out of the running — despite the advice of party colleagues.

He said the new party would be a Western-style social democratic party associated with the Socialist International, the umbrella organization of Western socialist parties.

The old party has been criticized for its vast assets confiscated after 1948.



Mr Rakowski: New party to represent social democrats

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Auckland
Peculiar things happen at the Olympic Games, but at the Commonwealth Games practically everything that goes on is extremely odd. I make the superstar of the Games so far a 21-year-old Indian woman who, competing against men, won a bronze medal for shooting. Her name is Soma Dutta, her event is the 10m air rifle, and her medal came in the pairs event. This was her first international match against men and in fact the Games is the only big shoot in which men and women can compete against each other. Dutta scored 586, only two points shy of a Games record. She owes it all to childhood tales of tigers. "When I was very young, I used to listen to the stories from my mother about hunting tigers," she said. "She helped me to join a shooting club in Calcutta." Within a year, aged seven, Dutta had won the national under-12 title. This being a pro-tiger column, I am happy to add that Dutta has never tried her skills on an actual tiger.

Easily the best list of hobbies in the England team handbook comes from Patrick Passley, who is a super-heavyweight boxer: "studying, telling jokes, reading Shakespeare, film music, current affairs". Reading Shakespeare? "Yea, that's right. *Merchant of Venice* is my favourite." Passley is also a law graduate. "Boxing helps me relax," he said. "There's nothing like hitting someone to work out your frustrations." A useful tip indeed. I wish him luck, though he does not need me to tell him about the quality of mercy.

Jim Smith should be the fastest swimmer in the Games. A white Zambian, he trains in a dam on his vegetable farm near Lusaka, sharing it with a number of crocodiles. He emphasizes, though, that he uses the side opposite to that where the crocs usually gather. Usually? Is that quite good enough? "I tend to breathe only on one side so I can keep an eye on them. I've seen them coming towards me and have got out in a hurry." Well, you would, wouldn't you?

While Smith escaped from his crocodiles unscathed, I hear of another swimmer's horrific encounter. Patricia Noall, a highly-ranked Canadian, has a serious allergy to peanuts; unwittingly, in the athletes' village she ate "some kind of peanut gravy I've never heard of". The reaction caused her breathing difficulties. The condition is normally treated with adrenaline, but this is prohibited (at least when administered artificially) at the Games. Life for the modern athlete is full of complexities.

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville's right. There's only room for so many editors to be linked with Pamela Bordes"

From Herne Bay I hear that Britain's first sumo wrestler, 18-year-old Nathan Strange, has returned home after seven months in Japan. He was doing well, too. His mother said: "There is nothing wrong. He was homesick." Strange found the intensely hierarchical system oppressive — the life of a young wrestler is said to be like that of a fug at a public school, but worse. Fighting under the name of Hidenokuni, he competed in the lowest junior tournament, emerging with five wins and two losses. He was promoted to the third highest junior level and given a ranking of 123. He fought another tournament and finished with four wins and three losses. Well, Japan's loss is Herne Bay's gain.

As I sat at the shooting range here in Auckland yesterday, I received news of Barnet Football Club, giants of the Vauxhall Conference. Barnet, like this column, think globally, you see. They have recently taken on a Brazilian, a Colombian and a Nigerian. The Brazilian is a centre-forward called Luciano Paraco, the Colombian is a former first division player called, apparently, Rosenberg Bernell and the Nigerian is a former youth international called Eddie Oke. "They all show a lot of skill," said the Barnet manager, Barry Fry. "But whether they will adapt to the English weather is another matter."

By introducing independent taxation of husband and wife from April the Government has shown itself prepared to respond positively to social change. But, to ensure that jobs are filled in the next decade, it should not stop there. Since 1980 there has been no conspicuous shortage of labour in Britain. There have been local shortages which, for instance, have required Londoners to exercise the patience of Job while awaiting the gracious arrival of a plumber. There have been skill shortages, in both numbers and level of expertise, in fields such as data processing. But in general the 1980s baby boom combined with the recession in the early years of the 1980s to keep the supply of labour fairly plentiful in relation to the demand. The bigger problem was the shortage of jobs.

In the 1990s all that is likely to change. Recent Department of Employment projections show the number of people of working age increasing much more slowly — by only 1 per cent in the next 12 years against 4.5 per cent between 1981 and 1988. The result could be increasing frustration for management, slower economic growth and a

steep rise in pay as companies scramble for the available talent. The antidote to this wasting disease is to encourage more people in the available pool to look for a job. Persuading older people to stay at work longer or to re-enter the labour force is one way of filling the gap. More important will be to ensure that women are able to fulfill their career potential. Already an increasing number of women are treating their careers as a lifetime commitment rather than an ante-chamber to family life.

According to the DE, greater participation by women could add 6.5 per cent to the female labour force over the next 12 years compared with only 1.3 per cent from the rising number of women in the population. But that is not enough. At the present rate, the increase in the number of women taking up work will not be sufficient to prevent a sharp slowdown in the expansion of the labour force as a

whole over the next decade. Though independent taxation has been prompted largely by fairness, its economic effects could be as important. At present it pays a couple to opt for separate taxation only if their total earnings exceed £30,511, with the wife contributing at least £7,026. Below that level the substitution of two single allowances for the married man's allowance and the wife's earned income allowance leaves them worse off.

There will also be a psychological and practical spur to getting a job from the greater privacy which the new rules will give to working wives. Husbands who do not know how much their wives earn are less able to drink their share of it.

Recent research suggests that independent treatment by the tax system does indeed encourage women to find work. In a paper for the Centre for Economic Policy Research, the

Swedish researcher Siv Gustafsson concludes that an important part of the difference in earnings between German wives and Swedish wives can be attributed to the different tax systems. German wives contribute only 12 per cent of net family earnings compared with 39 per cent by the Swedes. If allowance is made for the fact that Sweden has independent taxation while Germany does not, the difference is estimated to narrow to 17 per cent against 33 per cent. But that is still wide.

The provision of subsidized child-care facilities seems to be the other most important single factor in determining the inclination of wives to go out to work. In Sweden 85 per cent of mothers of pre-school children are in paid employment compared with 28 per cent in Britain. As labour becomes scarcer, more British companies may see it as in their interest to provide facilities for working mothers.

Midland Bank, for instance, plans to increase its crèches eventually from 20 to about 300. But judging by employers' response to the need for improved training, one cannot be confident that industry will see its own best interests so clearly.

Nor is it self-evident that providing child-care at work is always the best solution. Ideally there should be a diversity of child-care provision from which mothers can choose that which suits them best — be it an employer's crèche, a child-minder near home or school or a Norland nanny. This points in the direction of a voucher system, an option with which a number of US local authorities have already experimented, or a widely drawn tax relief.

The crunch question is whether the state should supply the subsidy. The present government will instinctively react against increasing public expenditure, and will balk at introduc-

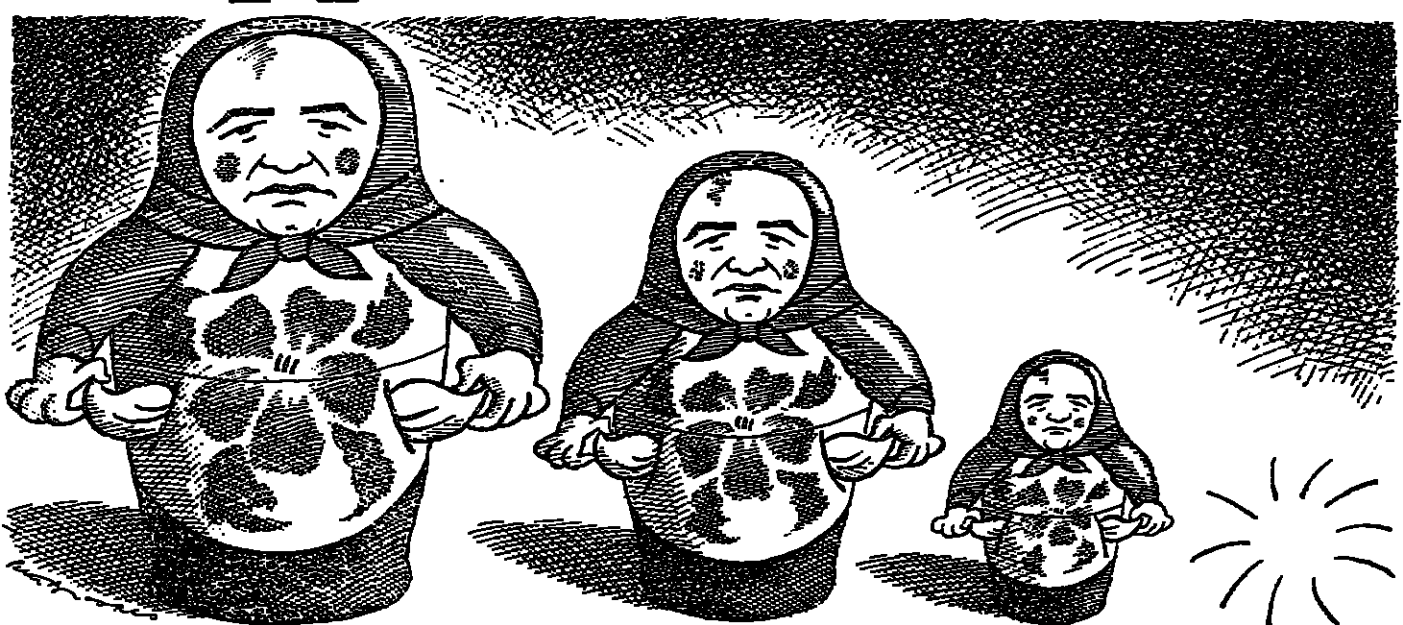
ing new complexity in the tax system by allowing child-care payments against income tax. Yet the principles which lead one in the direction of subsidized child-care are already firmly in place. For many years the tax and benefit system has recognized the obligation of the adult population as a whole to transfer some of its resources to the rearing of the next generation, first through family allowances and more recently through child benefit. Now the state has also recognized, belatedly, the obligation of equal treatment for women in tax and employment matters.

A national commitment to providing child-care is not something which will be decided on economic criteria alone. Many people — men and women — believe that a woman needs to be committed full-time to bringing up her children, at least in their early years, and that policies which encourage her to leave them are mistaken. Nevertheless, if employers are facing a new era of labour shortage it is clear where the best solution lies. While the Chancellor, John Major, is unlikely to have the scope to introduce radical changes in the coming budget, it is not too early to begin the debate.

Rodney Lord puts the case for subsidized child-minding

Care that pays dividends

The anger that could topple Gorbachov



Michael Binyon, just back from Moscow, finds growing disillusion with the economic reforms that have signally failed to deliver

Many Russians give Mr Gorbachov no more than six months. It is not, they say, the civil war in the south that will bring him down — despite the challenge this presents to Moscow's authority. Rather, it is the virtual collapse of the economy, the unprecedented shortages, the ever more desperate scramble to find something to eat, the frustration and disillusion with *perestroika* which could doom the Gorbachov experiment in reform.

The food supply in Moscow is worse than it has been for many years: empty shelves, virtually no meat, long queues for occasional deliveries of oranges. Things are little better with consumer goods. One big toy shop has little except plastic ducks, cheap board games, wooden building blocks and shoddy construction kits. Five years ago there were well-made East German model cars and trains. But little is imported from Eastern Europe now.

In a large electrical store, there have not been any telephones for months. A government telephone mechanic said there were no instruments to be found anywhere in the capital. Souvenir shops sell painted dolls that cost the equivalent of six months' wages: such is the demand and so little the supply. Clothing, furniture, medicine, pharmaceuticals, paper, all are in short supply.

"I'm sorry I've nothing to give you — you know we have *perestroika*," Russians say sarcastically. Public anger has long passed the stage of grumbling. It is now a drumbeat of menacing frustration, a warning that if things do not improve soon there could be riots. People are well aware of what happened in Romania.

Ominously, all this is blamed on *perestroika*, on the attempt to move to a market system. The new co-operatives, intended to stimulate initiative and act as precursors of small-scale private enterprise, are an especial target of people's anger. They are seen as havens for speculators, monopolies using the permanent shortages to force up prices and

buy up supplies. Many of the co-operatives have become targets for racketeers, who demand protection money under threat of arson or physical attack.

Further moves towards a market economy are therefore viewed with intense suspicion. "The problem is the Russian mentality," one Soviet academic commented. "The reaction of the ordinary person to a successful entrepreneur is not 'I too could do as well if I worked hard' but 'he is rich while I am poor, therefore he must be a speculator and should be curbed'."

After 70 years of a command economy, the spirit of individual enterprise has been stifled. The rules on co-operatives are still unclear; jealous petty officials are reluctant to release state supplies of materials, and place other obstacles in the way of the ambitious. No wonder, then, that many small businessmen have either given up or refuse to expand beyond a certain point.

But the failure of liberalization to stimulate the economy has deeper reasons. Money has ceased to be an incentive, because there is nothing to buy. Most people have enough to live on, given the huge subsidies on food, transport and other staples. A huge rural surplus only fuels the black market. With no consumer goods, there is no eagerness to work. Absenteeism, poor management and the lack of any clear goals means that industrial output is falling and even fewer consumer goods are being produced.

Joint ventures with western companies were seen as one way out. But these too are hampered by official obstructiveness, a lack of any clear legal framework, a

workforce unwilling to take responsibility and uncertainty over how much money western investors can repatriate. Many western companies are on the point of breaking off negotiations that have been going on for at least a year.

Another problem with joint ventures is the use of hard currency. Several shops have opened in Moscow serving mainly foreigners but theoretically open to Russians with convertible currencies. They include hotels, a chemist, restaurants and several grocery stores. There were even much-publicized events such as the arrival of a pizza truck, handing out hot pizzas — for dollars, not rubles. Such ventures only increase frustration. Russians can see the forbidden fruits in the heart of their capital, but unless they buy dollars on the black market, can never acquire them. People are resentful, and quickly equate such projects with the stories, inculcated from an early age, of capitalist exploitation in the bad old Tsarist times. There is a growing scepticism that joint projects will benefit the ordinary man.

The only answer, economic analysts say, is to make the ruble convertible. Already the Baltic republics are planning to issue their own convertible currency — with unknown implications for the country's fiscal unity. But the inevitable devaluation would drastically limit income from Soviet exports, especially of oil, furs and other commodities. The recent Leningrad fair auction has already shown that the ruble is being traded by Soviet enterprises at almost one-twentieth of the official exchange rate. And to prevent a massive capital flight, controls would have to be so

strict that Soviet citizens would hardly see any benefit, or would have to pay exorbitant prices for imported goods.

As for price reform, another step urged by liberals, it will only inflame anger over inflation, estimated to be around 8 per cent. Russians take stable prices for granted. They are unused to rising prices — especially if accompanied by rising wages — and look back with nostalgia to Stalin's days when the state announced regular price cuts. There are fears that lower subsidies on food, gas and transport would cause pensioners to starve. One solution is to free the market in all goods except staples, which would be strictly rationed.

The food situation, people say, will never improve with half measures such as 10-year leases for farmers. Unless land is given back to the people on leases of at least 100 years, no farmer will improve it. "Why should I work if I cannot hand this on to my son?" it is asked. Too often, an envious collective farm manager has found a pretext to repossess the most flourishing private plot, and there is little faith in the countryside that Moscow's political line will not change again soon. Too much debate and official dithering on this most radical reversal of Leninist policy means that the 1990 planting season will be wasted and the prospects for an early improvement in food supplies lost.

Cynicism and pessimism are eating away at the enthusiasm that greeted the political changes of two years ago. Even the deputies, freely speaking their minds in the Supreme Soviet, now command little respect. There is an exaggerated insistence that Gorbachov alone must find the solution, a refusal to share in the responsibility for rebuilding the bankrupt system.

Gorbachov has appealed to patriotism, has tried Churchillian rhetoric of blood, sweat, toil and tears. But the Russians have heard it all before. They want a better life now. And no one knows how to deliver it.

Michael Kinsley

Lagging? All is explained

Washington

It may seem presumptuous, but I am applying for the 1990 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This government-sponsored honour was created by Act of Congress in 1987, in memory of President Reagan's Secretary of Commerce, who died that year after falling off his horse. What is America doing to restore its economic pre-eminence in the world? Here is your answer.

The award is given in three categories: manufacturing, services and small business. Not being sure which category the production of an opinion column falls into, I may apply in all three. As George Bush himself puts it, on the cover of the application brochure: "The improvement of quality in products and...in services — these are national priorities..."

Quite right. I ought to take steps to improve the quality of this column, now that Japanese and Korean pundits are breathing down my neck and threatening my market share. But well, frankly, what with the end of history and everything, I couldn't be bothered. However, when a fellow is offered the chance to win "a three-part solid crystal stele standing 14 inches tall", with "an 18 karat gold plated medal...embedded in its central form", the medal itself inscribed with "Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award", and "The Quest for Excellence on one side and the Presidential seal on the other side", it really gets him to work upping his "quality excellence criteria", as the brochure adroitly puts it.

Of course, merely applying for a "Malcolm" will take up most of my time for the rest of 1990, leaving little opportunity for actual column production.

The instructions alone run to 39 pages. First you submit an "Eligibility Determination Form". Then you submit an "Application Package" (15 copies) composed of an "Eligibility Determination Form with official eligibility confirmation", an "Application Form", a "Site Listing and Descriptors Form", and an "Application Report", which (you will be pleased to hear) "is limited to a maximum of 75 single-sided pages" — not counting "Supplemental Sections" of 50 pages each, or "two-page overviews, dividers, covers, tab separators, title pages, and tables of contents".

The "Application Report" must be typed "using a fixed pitch font of 12 or fewer characters per inch or a proportional spacing font of point size 10 or larger. Any type may be used". (Gosh, thanks.) The report must address itself to seven "Examination Categories": "1.0 Leadership", "2.0 Information and Analysis", "3.0 Each of the seven Examination Categories has two or more Examination Items. Items are designated by two-digit numbers from 1.1 to 7.8." And, just to make your day complete, "Each Examination Item includes a set of Areas to Address (Areas) designated by

lower case letters and enclosed in a rectangle. That'll show those Japanese a thing or two. As the current Commerce Secretary, Robert Moshbacher, truly notes, the Baldrige Award "has demonstrated that government and industry, working together, can foster excellence".

So here we are, for example, working together for excellence at Category Four, "Human Resource Utilization." Item 4.1, "Human Resource Management," Area (a): "how the company integrates its human resource plans with the quality requirements of business plans." I am ashamed to say that in my little writing business I have given this matter no thought. And there are 132 more quality considerations just like it which must be addressed if one is to win a coveted "Malcolm".

The instructions are full of helpful hints. "Items in Categories 1,2,3 and 5 should not be interpreted to require the types of data which are requested in Categories 4, 6 and 7." In my haste to make the April 25 deadline, I almost missed this sage advice.

After April 25, I will have three or four months to tidy up my office in preparation for the Site Visit Review, "conducted by at least five members of the Board of Examiners." And don't suppose that this is just some undifferentiated mass of quality expertise. Oh, no. It has members of three types: Examiners, Senior Examiners, and Judges. Rest assured that "All members take part in an examination preparation course..." To the best of my knowledge, America's burgeoning industry of private companies that train students to take standardized tests isn't yet offering prep courses for "Malcolm" applicants, though that day will surely come. Meanwhile, I will use the time preparing my "introductory and concluding presentations" to the Site Visit Review team, and perhaps baking some cookies to offer them, if that doesn't seem too crass.

Then in "October or November" comes the great moment when I receive my award. Last year the awards were presented by President Bush himself, to Milliken & Company, a textile and chemical firm, and to a division of Xerox. I can't help but think that this time they will be looking for something a bit more post-industrial. But even if I lose, I get a consolation prize, absolutely free (apart from the \$2,500 application fee, \$1,000 for small businesses), a "Feedback Report" summarizing my strengths, my "areas for improvement" and my "overall quality management profile".

We are all familiar with this sort of thing from school days: your mother signs your report card and returns it to Teacher. Maybe when I return mine to Secretary Moshbacher, he will give me a little gold star.

The author is senior editor of The New Republic.

After my best night's sleep since last week, I reached for the warmest dressing gown I have ever owned, yawned my longest yawn this year, and rose to greet the first dawn since yesterday. All around lay the carnage of the worst storm since 1988. That is to say, two rubbish bins had blown over and one of the TV aerials on the terrace opposite had come loose. I didn't, incidentally, dream up that word "carnage". It was used by the man on Greater London Radio late on Thursday night to describe the situation in Oxfordshire. The report from Kent was "general devastation throughout the county". "Havoc" was "wreaked" in the Daily Mail. Havoc was also wreaked in the Telegraph. "DEADLY HAVOC" was wreaked in The Guardian. Rather tamely, I thought, The Times saw only "chaos".

"PRAY FOR RENE" was the headline in the Daily Mirror, which has decided that there is no place in a British working man's newspaper for the acute accent. As has the Sun. Like its rivals, the Sun reports the injury suffered by Gordon Kaye, who plays René in 'Allo 'Allo and happily seems (at the time of writing) to be recovering. For the rest, it was "killer wind", "killer hurricane", "panic" and "mayhem". A couple of the more enterprising reporters even searched for a link with the greenhouse effect — somewhat unsuccessfully, as an increase in the incidence of high winds is the exact opposite of

what should occur with global warming. As I write, other reporters are trying to whip up their own storm on the "Why weren't we warned?" theme. We were, of course, warned. News and weather reports were repeating that very high winds were on the way long before they arrived. What do people expect? Six hours of sirens, and free deliveries of candles, space blankets and jam from the local council well in advance of the event?

The House of Commons managed to discover that a bit of masonry had blown off one of the towers. Within minutes, Jack Cunningham, Labour's Shadow



MATTHEW PARRIS

Leader of the House, was on his feet. He blamed — no, not the wind — the Government. Who will be the first MP to call for compensation for people whose umbrellas have blown inside out?

Where is that phlegmatic race which we British like to imagine ourselves, that cool-blooded island people? Where were those stoical shrugs of the shoulders, those gritty smiles, this week? So some people couldn't get home because a few branches had blown down. So what?

Forty-five dead. Yes, that's bad. More newsworthy, obviously than the hundred or so who die every week on the roads: we have got rather used to that. More newsworthy than the crisps, beer and cigarettes with which we are merrily poisoning ourselves day in, day out — in between bouts of writing Letters to the Editor, our little eyes popping out with

indignation bawling the demise of the NHS and Mrs Thatcher's threat to the "priceless" gift of health. By my rough calculation, about 1,000 people die every day in Britain, so this "trail of terror, horror, death and devastation" added 4.5 per cent to the daily toll, for one day. Of course it is always tasteless to make remarks like this. The 45 were real people, not percentages, and for their friends and relatives the tragedy is total.

But if I were a professor and not a light columnist I could essay a learned argument to the effect that the indiscriminate use of adjectives kills people, too. It destroys our ability to describe

gradations of peril, and widens the gap between language and experience. But that would bore you.

And if I were a geographer I could summarize Thursday's "mayhem" in three sentences. "The British Isles," I would say, "enjoy a mild climate. Extreme weather conditions are rare. The people and their infrastructure may not, therefore, be well equipped to handle rough weather but nor — on cost-benefit analysis — is there any argument that they should be." But that might bore you too.

So let us leave matters in the hands of the Sun, which did at least manage to find for readers the most optimistic reaction on offer: "The show", said Mr John Larsen, speaking of 'Allo 'Allo, "will go on! It's a tradition." Mr Larsen is Gordon Kaye's understudy. You tell 'em, John!



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

TAXING THE ELEMENTS

It's an ill wind that can't be turned to make a scapegoat out of someone. In 1987 it was the Meteorological Office which took the brunt of the public's indignation at the fact that an Act of God had been allowed to disrupt their everyday lives. This time, the Met Office was ready from the first gust to point out with justified smugness that it gave early and ample warning. So the finger of accusation has moved on from the weathermen to the authorities. As the last moans of the gale died away, David Blunkett, shadow minister of state for the environment, was asking why the Government had not taken action to counter the impending threat, since we had seen it coming. The lessons of 1987 seemed not to have been learnt, he asserted.

But what were the lessons of 1987? The storm of 1990 took many more lives than the storm of 1987, mainly because it struck when people were up and about instead of safely in bed. But it is not apparent that louder warnings and more elaborate civil defence preparations would have made much difference to the toll.

All precautions against extreme natural events are based on calculated risk. No doubt it would be possible to reduce the dangers of injury, damage, and disruption very considerably by investing massively in underground cables and higher structural standards in construction, by imposing penalties on motorists who venture on to the roads after storm warnings have been issued, and by ruthlessly cutting down any tree standing closer to a road or railway line than its own height. Such a policy might bring down more trees than the storms have.

But would the saving justify the cost? There is a kind of arrogance in calls for action which assume that man is so fully in charge of events today that whenever anything goes wrong it must be somebody's fault. Major disasters — and that is what Wednesday's storm was — always demand an adequate practical inquest, and the application of practicable remedies. But in the last resort natural disasters are reminders that it is impossible to keep nature wholly under control, and futile to try. In southern England, where hurricanes hardly

happen, and major earthquakes and volcanic eruptions never do, it is a lesson too easily forgotten.

But each major event of this kind affects the calculations on which a prudent calculated risk needs to be based. In 1987 it was defensible to treat the impact of the October storm as something so far out of the regular pattern of meteorological events that it could be treated as unique. It had been nearly 300 years since the last comparable gale had struck. But even then, some specialists suggested that the storm might be a consequence of long-term changes in the weather pattern, fitting in with predictions that rising temperatures associated with the greenhouse effect might brew fiercer storms in the north Atlantic.

One swallow does not make a summer, and even two storms of anomalous ferocity do not make a greenhouse effect. But they are two pieces of evidence that must be added to the growing bulk of indications that a significant change is under way. The five warmest years in the present century occurred in the 1980s. Some scientists argue that these changes can be explained on the basis of a natural self-reversing hundred-year cycle, without any need to invoke the possibility that emissions of carbon dioxide gases into the atmosphere may be causing an irreversible warming which may have world-wide consequences.

Making a calculated risk means balancing the effects of a possible disaster against the cost of erecting safeguards against it. In these harsh terms, society could ride out a storm like Wednesday's every 300 years at an acceptable cost. If such storms are to be expected every three or four years, the case grows stronger for considering whether there is anything to be learnt from the elaborate and costly framework the USA has adopted to guard against tempests which (it must be stressed) make their English counterparts look like March breezes. But if the storms of 1987 and 1990 really are straws in the wind pointing to a general change in the world's climate as a result of human activity, then the risks under calculation represent one of the gravest challenges that mankind faces today.

CASE FOR AN INQUIRY

The Home Secretary's irritation with demands for an inquiry into the allegations currently being pressed by Mr John Stalker is in one sense understandable. It is a now a well-established reflex for any dissatisfied person or politician to ask for a public inquiry into anything or anyone which can be labelled mysterious or simply undesirable.

No government in its right mind could concede each and every request. Resistance to unreasonable demands must generate an anxiety that conceding one in a particular case will add credence to allegations — when the establishment of an inquiry has merely indicated a desire to see them tested.

But Mr Waddington is wrong to refuse an inquiry in the Stalker case. The case for holding one is simply stated. Mr Stalker was engaged in an important internal inquiry at the Royal Ulster Constabulary, looking into three incidents in which terrorist suspects had been killed by policemen and into the RUC's own inquiry which followed.

A claim was made that he was improperly associated with a Manchester businessman then under investigation by the local police, of which Mr Stalker was the deputy chief constable. Mr Stalker was replaced as head of the RUC inquiry. He was subsequently cleared of any impropriety and the businessman was recently acquitted of criminal charges made against him.

Mr Stalker has always maintained that there was more to his replacement at the head of the inquiry than met the eye. He offered the Home Office on Thursday two documents, which he believes buttress his case.

The unease created by this sequence of events rests on public ignorance. The accountability of police forces is an issue of public interest and there remains a possibility that Mr Stalker was removed from his inquiry

because someone wanted to shield the RUC from further scrutiny. It is also possible that the change in the leadership of the inquiry was not only proper but a decision taken to protect the inquiry from any taint or suspicion which might be open to criticism. The documents produced by Mr Stalker on Thursday could hardly be described as conclusive either way.

It is impossible to judge the truth. The Government is faced with a choice — between hoping that the matter will go away and public unease die, or holding an inquiry. The matter will not go away — it is now just over seven years since the events which started this affair — and in the highly-charged circumstances of Northern Ireland, unease in reasonable minds will not die down. An inquiry is not merely unavoidable it is plainly desirable — in the interests of separating truth from rumour.

There is no reason why such an inquiry should take very long or require elaborate procedure. A judge should examine witnesses in private. They should, if they so desire, be allowed representation. The judge's report should be published.

The Government made its decision not to prosecute RUC officers two years ago this week. The terms of reference cannot reopen the questions arising from the shootings and the immediate aftermath. An inquiry should therefore be asked to look at the investigation, trial and acquittal of Mr Kevin Taylor (the businessman acquainted with Mr Stalker) and at the replacement of Mr Stalker at the head of the RUC inquiry.

No such inquiry will satisfy everybody. But the elimination of doubts about the integrity of the procedures for rendering policemen accountable for their actions is an important aim for government. Important enough in present circumstances to justify fresh effort to explain what happened.

THE OTHER EUROPE

Thursday's speech before the Polish Parliament by the President of Czechoslovakia, Mr Vaclav Havel, may prove to have been a turning point in the history of central Europe. With his proposal — warmly applauded both by the Solidarity-dominated Senate and the communist-controlled Sejm — to create a political "formation" embracing Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Mr Havel took the first constructive step towards an alternative political framework for the countries that have already cut themselves loose from Soviet hegemony.

His invitation to Polish and Hungarian leaders to attend a summit in Bratislava to discuss his idea is likely to be accepted. Yesterday the Czechoslovak President was already in Budapest to win Magyar support for the scheme.

Mr Havel would be the first to admit that he has not begun to work out in detail the form which such a convergence of three intensely patriotic and very different nations might take. To Western ears, his speech — which was very largely concerned with historical issues — might seem abstruse. What is the Habsburg Empire to us? To Mr Havel it is a valuable precedent for his own ideal of a multi-lingual association of peoples sharing the common culture of *Mittleuropa*.

Why should we wish to stage a pan-European peace conference to draw a line under the Second World War, as he would like? For central Europeans the unresolved questions bequeathed by the often arbitrary and unjust settlements of Yalta and Potsdam are still alive.

The most difficult and controversial question which the newly-liberated nations of central Europe must now face is their relationship to a reunified Germany which they, unlike some of our own politicians, are

already taking for granted. There have been reports that Mr Lech Walesa stayed away from the hero's welcome given to President Havel out of irritation with the latter's decision to pay his first visit in office, not to Poland, but to East and West Germany.

If these reports are accurate, they reflect badly on the great Polish tribune's judgement. Fearless among the leaders of opposition to communism for so long, Mr Walesa is surely magnanimous enough to grasp the reasons for Mr Havel's splendid gesture to the Germans. He must know that, while the presidential playwright came to Berlin and Munich three weeks ago to settle accounts from the past, not forgetting the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans as he did so, Mr Havel comes to Warsaw and Budapest in order to open a new chapter.

The three countries along Germany's eastern marches have a common interest both in bettering their relations with the new regional giant and in pooling their strength in order to improve their bargaining power. Mr Havel told the Poles that he understood that they had more genuine grounds for anxiety about their western borders than the Czechs. But he added that his country's destiny was bound up with that of the Germans, and that he had returned from Germany convinced that they too were committed to peace.

This spring is not a time of euphoria in the East; it is a time of sobriety and stocktaking, as the full extent of the bankruptcy of communism becomes apparent to its receivers. President Havel seems to be more clear-sighted than most. He knows that, whatever help the West may offer, he must, like Prospero, conclude in the end that "what strength I have's my own". Other central Europeans, including Mr Walesa, should hearken to him.

Litter attitudes of long standing

From Mr Sholto L. G. Douglas
Sir, On the strength of a single, and commendable, confrontation with litter-louts, Jack Straw (article, January 22) predictably blames Mrs Thatcher, I disagree.

Not originally being British, I have continually accosted these people over the last 15 years, so am probably as good an authority as anyone. Their stock replies are "The council will pick it up, it's their job", and "If I don't drop litter, the cleaners will be out of a job" seem to owe their origins more to welfare-statism than to Thatcherism.

Yours faithfully,
SHOLTO DOUGLAS,
32 De La Beche Road,
Swansea,
West Glamorgan.
January 23.

From Sir Patrick Sergeant
Sir, In his letter to you today (January 26) the Leader of Camden Council claims that the council is committed to twice-weekly domestic refuse collections.

Sir, this is rubbish. At our end of not the meanest street in Camden, our rubbish has been collected once a week for the 29 years I have lived here, and is still collected only once a week.

The council lives in cloud-cuckoo land. Its managers, as well as its leaders, have assured us in writing that they collect our rubbish twice a week, but the dustbin men come only on Mondays.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SERGEANT,
1 The Grove,
Highgate Village, N6.
January 26.

From Mrs I. A. Lambert
Sir, Jack Straw must be more subtle in his approach to the litter-louts. The following generally works:

Excuse me, I think you have dropped something. I know I have. I don't want it. Neither do we.

Then if the offender shows no sign of picking up the rubbish, the accuser does it for him. All conducted with smiles and politeness, and no opportunity for obscenities.

Yours truly,
I. A. LAMBERT,
97 Elm Road,
Bengeworth,
Worcestershire.
January 22.

From Mr Gerald W. Clarke
Sir, I applaud Jack Straw's conversion of the young litter-louts. I note it was he, and not "society", that proved so successful. Cannot he now see Mrs Thatcher's point about "society"?

Yours ever hopeful,
GERALD W. CLARKE,
27 Lime Avenue,
Abington,
Northampton.
January 22.

From Mr G. R. Gray
Sir, Your Labour MP reports on his distressing refusal when asking ill-mannered youths to retrieve their own litter. Two weeks ago I equally gingerly approached a youth to pick up a foot-square pizza box he had openly discarded. To my surprise he did so without any great complaint. I think he was astonished at being asked. By his voice it was apparent that he was not British but German.

Yours,
G. R. GRAY,
Sussex House,
12 Friars Stile Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
January 22.

Juvenile offenders

From Professor W. A. O'N. Waugh
Sir, In all that has appeared about bringing the parents of juvenile offenders to court, I have seen no recognition of the misery of the parents of young people — children — who have run away from home. I certainly welcome the letter (January 22) from Mrs Sarah Curtis, JP, who points out that far from all parents of children in trouble are uncaring.

A runaway child often leaves parents with no news, no address, and no contact. The parents may wait in great distress for months or even years, haunted by fear that the child may be ill, in trouble, or even dead. Are such parents to receive the first news of their child, after such a wait, from a policeman bringing a summons for their alleged lack of care?

Yours faithfully,
W. A. O'N. WAUGH,
University of York,
Helding, York.
January 22.

Conservation conflict

From Lord Campbell of Croy
Sir, In the public controversy over the future of the Nature Conservancy Council, a significant fact has been largely overlooked. This is that the Secretary of State for the Environment has no functions in Scotland, other than the inherited former Ministry of Works' supervision of Government buildings (through the Property Services Agency, now about to be privatised). Every environmental function in Scotland is performed by the Scottish secretary, not by the environment secretary, whose equivalent responsibilities are in England and Wales.

The NCC's mandate covers England, Wales, and Scotland, but it has the Secretary of State for the Environment as its sponsoring minister. The lines of responsibility here are therefore at present in a tangle and this is liable to provoke misunderstanding and conflict. The NCC may make recommendations about Scotland to the Department of the Environment, but all governmental decisions affecting the environment in Scotland are taken in the Scottish Office, including those which follow public enquiries.

Soviet action in Caucasus crisis

From the Ambassador of the Soviet Union

Sir, In connection with the numerous publications in your newspaper on the situation in the Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, I assume that it might be of interest for your readers to get first-hand information on the Soviet view of the events. We think it is important that the British public knows the reasons for the introduction of the state of emergency in Baku and understands the real complicated situation existing in the two republics.

The introduction of the state of emergency, envisaged by the Soviet Constitution, was caused by the continuing acts of violence by the extremists against both the civil population of another nationality as well as the representatives of the authorities. Peaceful citizens, mainly Armenians, became the victims of these extremist forces. Not only threats and abuses but weapons were used against them.

As a result of the pogroms in Baku alone more than 40 innocent people died, dozens were wounded. Life for the Armenians in the city became intolerable. Since January 14 more than 16,000 Armenians have been evacuated from Baku alone. The extremists created obstacles even for this measure of humanitarianism.

In a number of places in the

republics the ethnic conflict grew into military actions between the groups of both nationalities. It became no longer possible for the local authorities to tackle this situation. It meant that the number of victims could have grown much higher.

We also could not ignore the violations of the state borders by the extremists, nor the blockade of Baku harbour. Under these circumstances the Soviet Government could not but take urgent appropriate measures to restore law and order.

Now about the casualties in Azerbaijan. They total 93 people, including 75 civilians; the rest are from military personnel and their families, including women. This fact speaks for itself. Once again I would like to stress that military forces have been sent with one purpose only — to prevent further bloodshed, violence, and to disengage the hostile sides. That is the reality.

The Soviet Government is taking all steps to avoid further deterioration of the situation, to solve the problems between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis by appealing to their reason and tolerance.

Yours faithfully,
L. ZAMYATIN,
Embassy of the USSR,
10 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8.
January 25.

have just seen that, as soon as the lid was lifted, instead of "a bag of termites", some remarkably erect and dignified people had emerged.

Yours sincerely,
B. R. BRADBROOK
(nee Necasova),
12 Highsett, Hills Road,
Cambridge.

From Mr L. P. Bayly
Sir, Bernard Levin's excellent article reminded me that some years ago I was showing a Czechoslovak working party, which included a minister, around a factory, and that at some point I quoted Svejk at them. They were delighted and the minister assured me that Svejk was being read more widely than ever before.

Yours faithfully,
L. P. BAYLY,
79a Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe,
Gloucestershire.
January 18.

Memories of Svejk

From Dr B. R. Bradbrook

Sir, I am afraid that — with all his good intentions — Bernard Levin (January 18) has done some disservice to the newly-liberated Czechoslovakia. Although we Czechs enjoy reading *The Good Soldier Svejk* with a good laugh in the process, and even accept it as an important work of satire and parody, we also see it — as Sir Cecil Parrott did — as "a tragic as well as a comic masterpiece".

Tragic in the sense that Svejk, as a representative of "a little man who gets caught up in the wheels of a big bureaucratic machine" (Parrott's words), has no other way to use but his cunning and various devious actions if he wants to survive.

If a heavy lid of oppression is put on a small defenceless nation, it is forced to become bent, crooked and devastated; but we

Museum charges

From the Chairman of National Heritage

Sir, The furious debate about museum entrance charges is being devilled by the persistent refusal of media commentators to recognise that the word "museum" today covers more than one kind of public exhibition.

Of course the divisions are not entirely clear-cut. For instance, the Imperial War Museum comes close to being an attractive popular exhibition than a national archive; so does the Science Museum. But the British Museum, the National Gallery, the V&A, and the Natural History Museum are bound to have so strong a bias towards scholarship in their position as great national archives that it becomes increasingly difficult to force them into the same Procrustean bed.

The private sector cannot substantially help our cheese-paring Government bear the load when all sorts of new institutions are simultaneously besieging the same slender sources for funds. The more huge appeals are launched for universities, hospitals, or research institutes, the more hopeless such expectations become.

If we want to keep museums in this country which we can remain proud of, there is no escaping the fact that the Government has to pick up the bill. Yours faithfully, JOHN LETTS (Chairman, National Heritage), 9a North Street, SW4.
January 25.

Poll tax poser

From Mr Terence J. Howes

Sir, You print today (January 22) details of a property in Kensington with an asking price of £12½ million. The purchaser of the property will of course pay the same poll tax as the road sweeper outside.

A Government which would have us believe that this is fair may find itself emulating Humpty Dumpty in more ways than one. Yours faithfully, TERENCE J. HOWES, 4 Prestbury Drive, Warminster, Wiltshire.
January 22.

Help for musicians

From Lord Roll of Ipsden

Sir, You have reported (January 16) Alexander Ballie's success in finding someone generously to purchase and lend him for life the fine cello he needs. Other talented young professional musicians have been helped in a somewhat different way by the Loan Fund for Musical Instruments.

The Arts Council, Musicians' Union, Royal Society of Arts, and Worshipful Company of Musicians set up the fund 10 years ago. In its first nine financial years it has lent £970,517 to 224 players to buy and own their treasured "tools". The money came from generous gifts, business houses, trusts, and private individuals, and from "recycling" the loans as they were repaid (over a maximum of five years).

The prices of all good instruments can be expected to go up steadily, but it is the young British string players who will most need increased help.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC ROLL,
2 Finsbury Avenue, EC2.
January 16.

Salmonella in eggs

From Mr Richard Hoggflesh

Sir, When can British children once again sit down in safety to a traditional meal at breakfast or tea-time of a boiled egg and soldiers?

My son, now 19 months old, has just been infected for the second time with salmonella (the type found in eggs). The first occasion happened almost exactly a year ago when he was too young to be eating eggs except when included in jars of baby food (and we believe he caught it from such a jar). This time he probably caught it from eating a boiled egg — one of his favourite foods.

I recommend that if British eggs or egg boxes are to be labelled with anything it should be a Government health warning.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HOGGFLESH,
Firgrove House,
Ockford Road,
Godalming,
Surrey.
January 22.

Expressions of church unity

From the Reverend Canon John Reynolds

Sir, It was with some dismay (though no surprise) that I read your report (January 23) of Cardinal Hume reminding the congregation in Westminster Cathedral of the rule restricting the reception of Holy Communion in Catholic churches to those who are already Catholics.

Some years ago I was of the opinion that the sharing in the sacrament of the altar should exist as an expression of unity rather than an instrument whereby unity could be achieved. I believe this no longer since "unity" in all our churches is a question of degree. In addition, there already is a measure of unity between our churches even though it is incomplete. I refer particularly to the acceptance of baptism by the churches and the specific evidences of grace in the different churches. The sacrament of the altar, therefore, can become a celebration of all that unites rather than that which divides.

Ten years ago I went on a twinning weekend to France. I had been invited to preach at the Sunday Eucharist. During the offertory the parish priest motioned me through to the altar, celebration and invited me to assist him in distributing the sacrament. It was a moment I shall always cherish. That which united was far greater and more important than that which divided.

The same appears to be true for the famous theologian, Father Yves Congar, who some time ago wrote about the need to restore communion between the churches without insisting on complete uniformity of doctrine and discipline.

Fifteen years ago the term "reconciled diversity" began to appear. I believe this is something that would be welcomed by Christians in all our churches. JOHN REYNOLDS, The Vicarage, Middle Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
January 23.

A knotty question

From the President of Moss Bros Group plc

Sir, The wide end of a tie should fall to at least the belt line and should not be tucked into the top of the trousers (letter, January 20). This is in order to camouflage the join between trousers and shirt, an area which is rarely attractive and invariably messy. For the same reason a cummerbund is worn with a dinner suit.

For those who dislike wearing ties to the full length, or for those who dislike cummerbunds, or even for those who choose to wear a bow tie with a day suit, either a waistcoat or a double-breasted jacket is the answer.

The short or narrow end of a tie should not be visible, and certainly should not be tucked between the front buttonholes of the shirt. An acceptable compromise is to drop the narrow end through the label at the back of the wide end. The label, of course, remains a matter for individual choice.

Yours faithfully,
MONTY GOSS, President,
Moss Bros Group plc,
8 St John Hill, SW11.

From the Editor of British Style
Sir, In his dilemma over the length of his necktie, Mr Laville (January 20) ventures into deep esoterism. He must appreciate first the necktie's function. By holding the collar together it takes over the duties of the cravat; it is designed to hide from public disapprobation the Adam's apple — a secondary sexual characteristic, because (a) women don't have one and, possibly, because (b) it wobbles up and down.

The length was irrelevant when the ends were hidden by the waistcoat, which also covered unsightly braces; but the waistcoat had the secondary function, by overlapping the trousers, of visually connecting the upper and lower sections of the ensemble.

Daks' invention of the first self-supporting trousers allowed braces, and consequently the waistcoat, to be dispensed with; but there remained the need to give visual continuity between the top and the bottom halves.

The necktie achieves this through its vertical line from throat to a point overlapping the trousers waistband or belt.

Especially with the "low rise" of modern trousers, a necktie is essential to avoid the appearance of a sack tied in the middle. Yours faithfully, JOHN TAYLOR, Editor, British Style, 9 Denmark Street, WC2.

From Mr Gordon Malthouse
Sir, Your correspondent who is so concerned about how to knot his tie that he has the temerity to ask you, Sir, could dispose of the problem by becoming one of the three people in 10 who, Craig Brown tells us (Review, January 20), sport a polo neck.

Yours truly,
GORDON MALTHOUSE,
32 Downlands Road,
Purley, Surrey.

From Mr Nicolas Mynett
Sir, With reference to Mr Lavelle's "knotty question" I would like to remind you of what Lord Chesterfield said in 1745: Dress is a very foolish thing, and yet it is a very foolish thing for a man not to be well dressed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, NICOLAS MYNETT, Temple House, Stowe, Buckinghamshire.

SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

In the face of obsession

Peter Waymark

● In *Madly in Love* (Channel 4, 9.00pm), a first television play by Sandy Welch, Lee (Samantha Bond) leads a hectic and often harassed life as the wife of Nick, a hospital doctor working long and erratic hours, and mother of a baby son. But the marriage is more or less happy until a stream of letters and telephone calls for Nick lead Lee to believe that there is another woman. Her hunch is right but not in the way she imagines. Julia (Penelope Wilton) is a former patient of Nick's who has developed an obsessive and uncontrollable love for him. She is suffering from a psychotic disorder called de Clermont Syndrome and about it there is nothing that anyone can do about it. The police



Vulnerable: Samantha Bond as Lee and Martin Weller as Nick (Ch4, 9.00pm) sergeant's suggestion that the women "make it up over a cup of tea" is hopelessly naive. Lee's feelings go far too deep for that, while it is in the nature of Julia's condition that she is largely unaware of what she is doing. The challenge for Welch was to avoid turning a drama into a case history, though given that the illness is incurable her options were limited. What saves *Madly in Love* from being a dramatized documentary is the quality of the characterization, helped by two excellent central performances. Samantha Bond confirms that she is one of our best young actresses, while Penelope Wilton's Julia is both pathetic and moving. There is a nice irony in that before she stopped work to have her baby, Lee worked on a woman's magazine dispensing pat answers to emotional problems. Faced with such problems herself, she is just as vulnerable and helpless as anyone else.

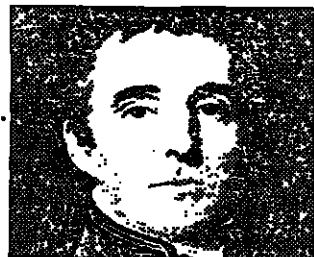
● With a list of credits that includes *Rising Damp*, *Only When I Laugh* and the underrated *Singles*, not to mention *Home to Roost* and a half-share in *Duty Free*, Eric Chappell is one of our most practised writers of situation comedy. For his latest creation, *Haggard* (ITV, 6.40pm), he has gone to Michael Green's spoof diary of a drunken 18th century squire with a lecherous son and put-on servant. The result is a distant cousin of *Blackadder*, a cheerfully uninhibited romp in which the irrepressible trio (played to the hilt by Keith Barron, Reece Dinsdale and Sam Kelly) roister their way through *Tom Jones* country in pursuit of compliant wenches and easy money. Michael Jayston's haughty aristocrat provides valuable contrast.

In the steps of the Iron Duke

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Daville

● Roughly speaking, obsessional people fall into one of two categories: they are either the world's biggest bores or — like Stephen Drake-Jones, whose exploits are recounted in *The Iron Duke* (Radio 4, 10.15pm) — they grab you by the lapels and you find yourself hypnotically reluctant to be released. Drake-Jones, a British exile happily settled in Spain, collects or chronicles everything to do with the Peninsular War. Though founder member and leading light of the local Wellington Society, he retains enough characteristic British reserve to deny being a hero-worshipper of the Iron Duke, preferring to explain his fixation thus: "You do admire someone who keeps on winning battles." There is, too, something archly British about the society's omission of all reference to French defeats in the commemorative plaques they affix



Hero-worshiped: the Duke of Wellington (R4, 10.15pm)

to surviving structural relics of the Peninsular War. It is to these old battlefields that Drake-Jones regularly ventures forth with metal detector, wine skin, and girlfriend, to dig up cannon-balls and grapeshot, rusty nails, and the odd fork that was probably used during some poor soldier's last meal on Earth.

● Also recommended: Graham Gould's 1983 production of *N.C. Hunter's Waters of the Moors* (Radio 4, 7.45pm) which was chosen by Marjorie Westbury to celebrate her 60 years on radio. It now stands as a worthy memorial to her, for she died last December.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

(a) Anachronistic, out of current historical time, from the Greek *para* past + *chronos* time: "Paul squinted at his wrist-watch, his only stitch of clothing

(no matter how intense and parochial the shadon, he never took it off).
(b) Anachronistic, out of current historical time, from the Greek *para* past + *chronos* time: "Paul squinted at his wrist-watch, his only stitch of clothing

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 11.30am, then at 2.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, and 9.30pm.
6.30am Tim Smith 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Adrian Just 2.00 My Top 10 1.15 Lisa Stansfield talks about her career and favourite records 3.00 The Saturday Sequence 4.00 Andy Peebles 6.30 In Concert: Happy Mondays, recorded at Sheffield University; Ian McCulloch recorded at The Ritz, Manchester 10.30 The Mary Whitehouse Experience 11.00-11.30pm The Saturday Rock Show

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am German Feature 5.35 News in German: Headlines in English and French 6.30 Sports News 6.50 Newsweek 6.55 London Mail 7.00 News 7.05 24 Hours: News Summary and Financial News 7.30 News 7.45 World News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 A Day in the Life 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 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Fuel shortage likely cause of plane crash

From Susan Elliott
Long Island
and Peter Stothard
Washington

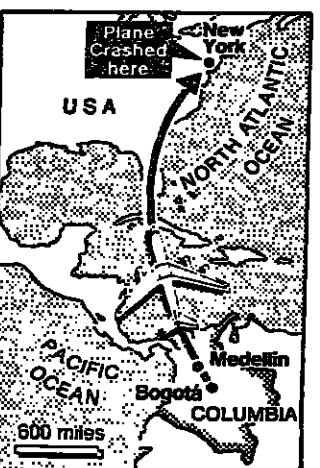
Fuel shortage emerged yesterday as the most likely cause of the Colombian airliner crash outside New York in which 66 people died and more than 80 were injured. The Boeing 707, Avianca flight 052, was on a route from Bogotá to John F. Kennedy airport when it came down on a wooded Long Island road on Thursday evening.

The plane broke into three parts on impact but did not catch fire. According to local Nassau County police, there was no fuel on the ground around the wreckage.

The pilot, who was reported among the dead, had earlier made one unsuccessful attempt to land at the New York airport in fog and steady rain. Airport authorities said the crew had reported power loss.

As the National Transport Safety Board began an investigation, both the "black box" recorders were recovered.

The last stop for the aircraft had been the Colombian drug capital of Medellín where cartel leaders boasted two



months ago of blowing up an Avianca plane, killing 107.

But terrorist involvement in Thursday's crash was virtually ruled out by investigators.

"The plane went up and up and then it lost control and started shaking. The lights went off and people started to scream," said Señor Carlos Gomez, a survivor.

The red-and-white liveried aircraft came down across a wooded road in Cove Neck, a wealthy area of Long Island's North Shore, near the former home of Theodore Roosevelt. Some casualties were taken to the garden of a house belonging to the father of the tennis player, John McEnroe.

"There were bodies on top of

bodies on top of bodies," said Mr Steve Roca, a New York medical worker. Most of the dead appeared to come from the front of the plane, he said. One of the crew members, believed to be the co-pilot, was found by Mr Joe Abolafia, a local policeman, dismembered and hanging from a tree.

The passengers included children being brought from Colombia for adoption in the United States. Fifteen children were taken to hospitals where three were reported to be "not responding to treatment". One was baptised on the roadside by a priest.

Many of the 1,000 rescuers had to walk the last mile because of the build-up of traffic. Rescue workers had to cut passengers free, some of

them still hanging from their safety belts, and helicopters carried victims away.

Volunteers formed chains to ambulances. A fireman reported that the airliner "grazed a house" during its descent but there were no casualties reported on the ground.

According to an Avianca

spokesman, the plane, which was due to land at 8 pm, had been delayed by bad weather and airport congestion. The first landing attempt took place at 9.24 pm. A spokesman for Kennedy Airport said that the plane had then made a wrong approach and crashed as it approached for the second time.

Investigators will have to unravel how the jet's tanks came to be dry (Harvey Elliott writes).

One suggestion is that the aircraft developed engine problems on its approach and dumped fuel, possibly disposing of too much. More likely is that not enough was taken on board.

The aircraft that crashed was built in 1967 and could fly for more than 10 hours with fuel stored in two main tanks in each wing, a centre tank and two small wing tip reserves.

When a pilot calculates the amount of fuel he will need for any flight he is required to fill the tanks with enough to get from the departure point to his destination then add 5 per cent for contingencies.

Plan for 'private' probation service

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs
Correspondent

Voluntary groups and private companies may be allowed to supervise offenders serving non-custodial sentences under plans being drawn up by the Home Office, it was disclosed yesterday.

The plans, certain to cause anxiety among probation officers, who currently have sole responsibility for the monitoring of non-custodial court orders and sentences, are to be outlined today in a key speech by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary.

He will suggest that the independent sector play a greater role in counselling and resettling offenders on release from jail - functions carried out at present by the probation service.

Mr Waddington believes that probation officers should lose their monopoly of supervising sentences that consist of community service. That proposal is likely to cause most concern within the probation service.

Probation officers supervise 60,000 court orders and community-based sentences annually, a core part of their work. They would argue that splitting off even part of this work to voluntary groups, let alone the private sector, would raise huge practical and ethical problems.

It emerged yesterday that a consultative paper detailing practical ways in which the independent sector might expand its work with offenders is to be published in February, soon after the release by the Home Office of a Green Paper on the probation service.

The Green Paper will concentrate on the structure of the service and propose an amalgamation of some of the 56 autonomous probation committees and the introduction of measures designed to improve accountability and effectiveness.

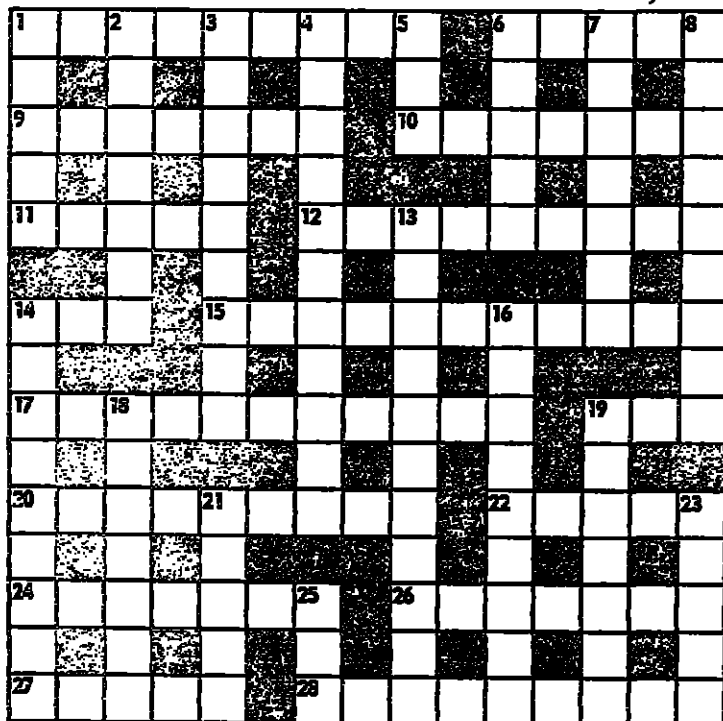
Its most radical suggestion will be the creation of a centrally-managed national probation service that will be funded by Whitehall.

At present, the service is 80 per cent funded by the Home Office and 20 per cent by local authorities.



The wreckage of the Avianca airliner (top). Daniel Roden, aged three, left, of Colombia, is carried to safety by a fireman and a policeman holds a young victim who is being treated.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,202



- ACROSS**
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 - ... flower - Abraham's nephew had 24 (5).
 - A jolly member (3).

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 18,201

PARTEXCHANGE
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SHEAFFER. A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
- MANCUS**
- A detachable cuff
 - An Old English coin
 - Deficient in some way
- PARACHRONIC**
- Anachronistic
 - Very important
 - Importunate
- BUFFERISM**
- Old Fogeyism
 - Acting as intermediary
 - A prophylactic
- NEROLI**
- Acting like Nero
 - An orange oil
 - A primitive chastity belt

Answers on page 14

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorchester & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Northampton, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbers	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
W & S Wales & Dales	716
N E England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
W & N Scotland	719
Edinburgh, Fife, Lothian & Borders	720
E Central Scotland	721
Grampian & E Highlands	722
N W Scotland	723
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	724
N Ireland	725

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Cirs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T...	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: H A Spencer, 81 Colwith Road, London W6; G W L Barton, West Hill, Green Walk, Bowdon, Cheshire; Doon Granville, Callernish, Locknagilly, Isle of North Uist, Western Isles; Nigel Hall, 28 Haslam St, Bury, Lancs; J Butlerworth, 13 Winchester Road, Oxford.

Concise crossword, page 48

WEATHER

Scotland, Northern Ireland, northern England and north Wales will have sunny spells and showers, which will be heavy with hail and snow in places. South Wales, southern and central England will start mostly bright and dry. Southern coastal areas will be cloudy with rain from midday onwards. The rain will spread northwards, reaching north Midlands and Norfolk by the evening. Outlook: unsettled.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	17-23	1-10	1-10	0
Amman	15-25	1-10	1-10	0
Algiers	19-26	1-10	1-10	0
Alexandria	17-25	1-10	1-10	0
Athens	14-27	1-10	1-10	0
Bahrain	17-28	1-10	1-10	0
Bombay	27-31	1-10	1-10	0
Buenos Aires	16-21	1-10	1-10	0
Calcutta	23-29	1-10	1-10	0
Cairo	18-24	1-10	1-10	0
Cardiff	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Chennai	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Cebu	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Dhaka	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Dublin	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Edinburgh	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Geneva	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Hong Kong	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Imbabwe	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Isle of Man	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Jakarta	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
London	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Los Angeles	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Lyons	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Madrid	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Manila	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Moscow	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Mumbai	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Nairobi	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Paris	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Rangoon	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Rome	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Singapore	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Sydney	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Taipei	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Tokyo	24-30	1-10	1-10	0
Yokohama	24-30	1-10	1-10	0

HIGH & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Plymouth and Chichester, Devon, 18°C; lowest day temp: Birmingham, 10°C (34°F); highest rainfall: Birmingham, 1.2 in; highest sunshine: Taunton, 2.3 hr.

GLASGOW

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6°C (43°F); Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.5 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 hr.

HIGH TIDES

Location	Today	Tomorrow
London Bridge	2.04	2.29
Aberdeen	1.40	1.37
Avonmouth	2.24	2.55
Belfast	11.23	11.47
Cardiff	7.19	7.40
Dartford	14.23	14.48
Dover	11.23	11.44
Falmouth	5.53	5.19
Glasgow	1.05	1.27
Hull	10.40	10.57
London	2.04	2.29
Lyons	1.40	1.37
Manchester	6.18	6.54
Mersey	11.23	11.47
Portsmouth	11.23	11.47
Sheerness	11.23	11.47
Southampton	11.23	11.47
Swansea	6.42	7.02
Tees	4.07	4.13
Winnipeg	12.12	12.40

Tide measured in metres from 2.28000.

TODAY

Location	Sun rise	Sun set
London	7.47 am	4.41 pm
Sheerness	8.11 am	5.41 pm

TOMORROW

Location	Sun rise	Sun set
London	7.45 am	4.43 pm
Sheerness	8.28 am	6.28 pm

First Quarter February 2

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Cardiff	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Edinburgh	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
London	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Manchester	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Sheffield	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Sunderland	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Swansea	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Torquay	10-15	1-10	1-10	0
Winnipeg	10-15	1-10	1-10	0

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY: London 4.41 pm to 7.45 am; Bristol 4.51 pm to 7.55 am; Edinburgh 4.55 pm to 8.15 am; Manchester 4.41 pm to 8.01 am; Plymouth 5.07 pm to 8.02 am.

MANCHESTER

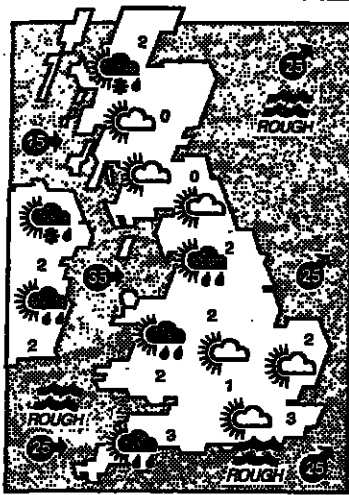
Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6°C (43°F); Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.5 in; Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 hr.

YESTERDAY

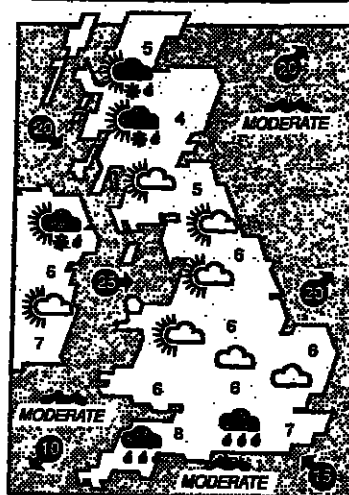
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Belfast	3-7	1-10	0
Birmingham	6-10	1-10	0
Bristol	6-10	1-10	0
Cardiff	6-10	1-10	0
Edinburgh	6-10	1-10	0
Glasgow	6-10	1-10	0
London	6-10	1-10	0
Manchester	6-10	1-10	0
Sheffield	6-10	1-10	0
Sunderland	6-10	1-10	0
Swansea	6-10	1-10	0
Torquay	6-10	1-10	0
Winnipeg	6-10	1-10	0

AM

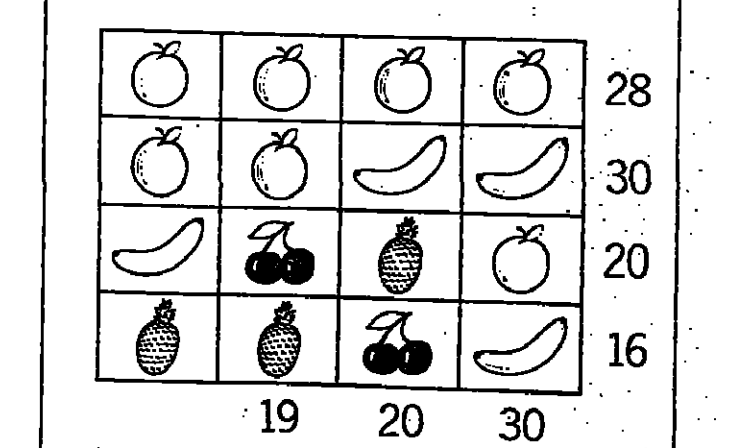


PM



Information supplied by Met Office

COULD YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS FAST AS EINSTEIN?



HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE

The different types of fruit have different values. Added together they give the totals shown. Work out the missing total for the left hand column.

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mensa, the high IQ Society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR (no stamp required).

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

STIMLA27

Mensa

STIMLA27

STIMLA27

WALL STREET

Data force Dow lower

New York (Reuters) - Shares fell after an unexpected rise in quarterly durable goods orders in the United States.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was 4.06 points lower at 2,556.98.

Analysts said the surprise rise in durable goods orders showed the economy was stronger than many had thought. This raised the possibility of a Federal Reserve tightening of credit, partly to keep interest rates competitive.

● Tokyo - The Nikkei index fell 95.04 points to 36,874.07.

● Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index fell 7.02 points to end at 1,489.53.

● Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index rose 9.5 points to 1,684.8.

● Frankfurt - The Dax index rose 6.55 points to 1,794.14.

● Hong Kong - The market was closed for a holiday.

midday		close		midday		close		midday		close	
Abbott Lab	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2
Aetna Life	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2
Avon Products	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Bank of America	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank One	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Montreal	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of New York	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of the West	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Tokyo	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of China	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of India	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Korea	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Japan	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Australia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of New Zealand	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of South Africa	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Argentina	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Brazil	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Mexico	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Chile	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Peru	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Colombia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Venezuela	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Ecuador	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Bolivia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Paraguay	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Uruguay	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Cuba	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Haiti	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Dominican Republic	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Puerto Rico	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Trinidad and Tobago	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Guyana	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Suriname	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of French Guiana	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Martinique	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Guadeloupe	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of French Polynesia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of New Caledonia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Wallis and Futuna	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of French Southern Territories	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Monaco	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of San Marino	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Vatican City	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Liechtenstein	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Andorra	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Gibraltar	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Jersey	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Guernsey	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Isle of Man	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Channel Islands	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of British Virgin Islands	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Cayman Islands	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Turks and Caicos Islands	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Anguilla	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Antigua and Barbuda	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Barbados	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Belize	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Bermuda	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Brunei Darussalam	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Cambodia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Cameroon	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Cape Verde	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Central African Republic	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Chad	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Comoros	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Congo	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Democratic Republic of Congo	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Equatorial Guinea	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Gabon	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Gambia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Ghana	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Guinea	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Guinea-Bissau	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Ivory Coast	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Jamaica	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Kenya	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Kiribati	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Lesotho	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Liberia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Madagascar	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Malawi	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Maldives	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Mali	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Mauritania	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Mauritius	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Mexico	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Micronesia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Moldova	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Mongolia	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Montenegro	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bank of Morocco	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1						

Advance in dealing lifts Tranwood 41% to £5.9m

By Sam Parkhouse

Dealing at Tranwood, Mr Peter Earl's investment bank, contributed to a 41 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £5.9 million for the year to end-December.

Profits from dealing activity as principals improved substantially to £4.02 million, up from £938,000, and accounted for the lion's share of the advance.

The bank came to prominence by buying the whole of the Josses & Co equity at the time of the Gateway bid on behalf of institutions in the United States.

Mr Earl is looking forward to further commission income

from the deal when the stub is eventually sold.

The corporate finance division contributed profits of £1.9 million, and Blackwood, its investor relations subsidiary, added £51,000 to the results for the period.

Overall fee income increased by £2.07 million to £7.7 million, taking in a first-time contribution from the Tranwood Consortium Fund, the group's venture capital project.

Tranwood also announced yesterday that its involvement in this field is being extended through a joint venture with Strategy Ventures, a com-

pany specializing in corporate restructuring and management buyouts.

Mr Earl says the fund will eventually have up to £2,000 million on call to finance projects. The fund has been managed by Mr Richard Koch, newly-appointed to the board of Lowndes Queensway, since 1988.

Meanwhile, Tranwood says its shares, which gained 1p to 41.5p, are going to be subject to a capital restructuring ahead of a move from the USM to the main market.

Shareholders will receive 100 new shares for every 300 old, plus 39 10 per cent

redeemable convertible preference shares and £39 nominal of 13 per cent unsecured loan notes dated 1991.

The total dividend for last year rose to 2.25p (1.5p) by way of a final of 1.25p on earnings per share up 37 per cent at 4.54p.

Laing & Crickshank, the broker, dismissed the capital restructuring as a hot air exercise.

And it has dropped its forecast for profits next year to £7 million, down from the £13 million expected previously due to the difficulties now being felt in the financial services sector.

A man who plans to turn BP into the new model company



KENNETH FLEET

Robert Horton, 50, is not a modest man but if he were the reticent sort, his achievements since joining BP in 1957 would speak for themselves. He has shown a particular ability to retrieve desperate situations, notably BP Chemicals, where he was chief executive between 1980 and 1983, and Standard Oil of Ohio, where he became chairman and chief executive in 1986. BP in 1990 is not in intensive care — far from it — but the Horton regime promises to be different from the regime of Sir Peter Walters, the man he succeeds as chairman and chief executive on March 11.

The predominant strain in BP's management culture has undergone periodic change. The 1960s were the last decade of imperialist grandeur and management, which I described at the time as "arthuric". In the 1970s, when BP was temporarily transfixed by two Middle East oil crises, the corporate planners took over. Higher oil prices, they argued, would swell the company's coffers but oil had become a scarce resource and — before it runs out in 2001 — BP had to diversify. The board was lured by this fallacious logic into coal and minerals and other more exotic ventures — according to Horton "a terrible mistake which won't be repeated," made by people "incapable of assessing risk." In the 1980s, BP has been led by Peter Walters, the first chairman to have any real knowledge of oil. One of his major achievements has been to unwind the terrible mistakes of the 70s.

Horton is tough, ambitious and determined, and qualified, to play a part on the national stage as well as the leading role in BP. By training and temperament, he is a strategist. As chief executive, strategy is the main focus of his responsibilities, while David Simon, his rival to succeed Walters and deputy chairman and chief operating officer in the new structure, concentrates on the bottom line. Simon, who resisted several tempting offers to leave BP, has

undertaken to stay for at least five years. Potentially, they are a formidable team.

Horton believes the time is right for a radical rejigging of the way BP is run. His testament for the future, "Project 1990", will be unveiled in March. His critics will dub it an elaborately-formulated jobs and cost-cutting exercise. Horton sees it differently. His vision is "to simplify and strip down the whole BP mechanism, replacing hierarchies and formal organizations with teams and networks; ensuring that those who are given information act on it and not merely pass it on to others; and fight the competition without, not the rival department within. As a former Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he has a proper regard for the achievement of Alfred P Sloan, the genius of General Motors, who set the modern pattern for managing large corporations. Horton believes a new pattern is needed for the 21st century. With information technology at his elbow, he is confident he can do it at BP.

"With 11 businesses in 70 countries the matrix system of the Walters era made sense," Horton's BP will consist of four businesses in three main regions: North America, Europe and the Far East and Australasia. "Built-in checks and balances and second guessing will no longer be necessary." The City wants to see more of the Horton strategy before it climbs off the BP fence. Observers have reservations about the group's recent performance, regretting the loss of £2.42 billion shelved out to reduce the Kuwait Investment Office's stake in BP to 9.9 per cent and finding gaps in BP's profile. Horton concedes that BP

"has never taken the Far East seriously." A "mega-review" is under way but if the go-ahead is given "a lot of money will have to be spent."

He claims BP is well on the way to getting its downstream marketing right. "We are beating the pants off Shell." And a "rather tired" exploration policy is rapidly giving way to the old BP style of "major plays in new areas." Whether BP still has the ability to smell oil at 200 miles is about to be tested. In any event, it is a more exciting game than "incremental stuff — finding oil on paper."

BP's big plays in North America are the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, where the industry is thirsting for a decision by Congress to permit exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve. There is also continuing speculation that BP will make a significant acquisition among US oil companies, either Mobil, which is strong and well-managed, or Chevron.

Horton, naturally, does not comment on speculation but he is speculating about the next oil crisis which he thinks might come within three years. "Crisis" in the sense of insufficient oil to meet the demand — and, as night follows day, higher oil prices. The assumption that countries within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can expand production significantly beyond 23-24 million barrels per day to meet an upsurge in demand is wrong, according to no less a person than Sheikh Yamani. They need up to \$60 billion (£36 billion) of new investment and are looking to Western oil companies to provide it. Other Opec dignitaries are singing the same tune, and Horton is listening.

"The analysis is right," he believes, "but what does it really mean?" It should mean the West taking certain initiatives, such as making energy more expensive (higher US gasoline taxes); returning to self-help (a more enlightened North Sea tax system); and reverting to major nuclear power programmes.

Receiver called in to protect Goldberg company from debt

From David Tweed, Sydney

Linter Group, the clothing group headed by Mr Abe Goldberg, the Australian textile entrepreneur, has been placed in the hands of receivers in an attempt to protect it from a crippling Aus\$1 billion (£463 million) debt.

The Victorian Supreme Court appointed Mr Lindsay Maxwell and Mr John Hargreaves, of KPMG Peat Marwick Hungerford, the accountants, as receiver managers to Linter Group and Linter Textiles Corporation, its subsidiary. These companies own some of Australia's leading clothing brands, such as Speedo, King Gee and Pelaco.

Mr Maxwell said the receivership move was designed to distance Linter's manufacturing subsidiaries from financial difficulties in Linter Group and its Linter Textiles operating division.

In a sworn affidavit, Mr Maxwell forecast the operations of the two companies would earn profit before interest and tax of Aus\$70 million.

However, with interest commitments of Aus\$170 million, this would leave an Aus\$100 million shortfall.

Mr Maxwell said: "Linter Group and Linter Textiles do not have the cash resources to meet interest payments or repayments of principal to various lenders as and when they fall due."

Mr Maxwell calculated a deficiency of Aus\$459.6 million based on total assets worth Aus\$589.1 million and total liabilities of Aus\$1.05 billion.

The application for receivership was made after a meeting between Mr Goldberg and his bankers.



Abe Goldberg: receivership follows meeting with bankers

Real Time Control in the red

The slowdown in the high street pushed Real Time Control, the maker of computer systems and terminals, into a £296,000 loss in the half-year to end-September, against a £62,000 profit last time.

There is again no interim dividend — the final for the last full year was also scrapped after the company reported profits more than halved.

Turnover was lower at £1.76 million (£1.85 million).

JJ Dyson, the trailer manufacturer, improved pre-tax profits by £346,000 to £1.21 million at the interim stage to end-September, on turnover of £25.8 million (£24.09 million). An interim dividend of 2p will be paid this year on eps up from 4.98p to 6.32p.

Dyson ahead

Kromagraphics, the computer graphics business, slumped to a £189,000 loss before tax in the six months to end-September after exceptional costs of £70,000 from setting up a new division. The comparative period saw a profit of £99,000. There will be no dividend.

Stoppages off

Waterford Wedgwood's 2,300 crystal workers have called off planned stoppages and agreed to arbitration in a dispute over management cost-cutting proposals. The company has debts of up to £150 million (£142 million).

Bostrom buy

Bostrom, the specialist engineering group, is to buy C&P Group, the metal pressing and tool company, for a maximum of £3.25 million.

Bank fears the Lawson effect

The story linking the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, with Barclays Bank, despite denials, refuses to lie down. If Sir John Quinlan is brave enough to confront the Prime Minister over student loans, then he does not lack the nerve to put a tiger among the goats.

Lawson's friendship with Sir Martin Jacobson of Barclays and BZW is close (Jacobson would be his preferred choice as the next Governor of the Bank of England). Nigel Lawson as a director of a leading clearing bank, better still chairman, would have a shattering effect. Not quite as explosive of course as making him Governor of the Bank, but still likely to cause destruction and panic over a wide area.

Neither appointment is likely but the bankers, central and clearing, will not sleep well at night until his future is settled.

Lawson's relations with the Bank of England, especially during Gordon Richardson's time as Governor were not harmonious, reaching a low ebb when the Bank, as he saw it, had dropped him through its incompetence into the Johnson Matthey Bankers mess.

As my predecessor as City Editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, he knew a great deal about the City.

William Keegan recalls in his new book, *Mr Lawson's Gamble*, how the Financial Secretary intervened and fussed to such an extent about the fine print of gilt-edged issues that Eddie George (the next Deputy Governor) called his bluff by telling him that if he wanted it, the Treasury could take over the whole process.

The Bank's nightmare is not Nigel descending on them as Governor but his appearance at the end of the bed as a clearing banker. You do not have to look into the crystal ball to see what might happen, you merely read the experiences of Governor Montague Norman between the wars at the hands of Reginald McKenna, chairman of the Midland.

Like Lawson, McKenna had been both Financial Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer before becoming, in 1919, the most ambitious and most intelligent of bank chairmen.

With John Maynard Keynes opening the batting with him, Norman spent many long tiring days in the field. Before the MacMillan Committee in 1930, McKenna roasted Norman "in a rather aggressive manner in regard to facts and figures he did not have in his mind."

I have no problem at all imagining Nigel doing the same to Robin Leigh-Pemberton or his successor.

Ross covers £8.5m buys with rights

By Jeremy Andrews

Ross Group is to pay £8.5 million in shares to buy two businesses and property in Southampton from BM Group, the construction machinery manufacturer, which is also owned by Mr Roger Shute.

The 7 million shares are being offered to existing shareholders in a rights issue that will leave Ross four times the size it was when Mr Shute arrived in October.

The two are Gilpatrick and Weslake Electric, which were sold by Unigate to Reszer, which passed them on to BM. Under BM, Weslake, which makes vehicle wiring harnesses, moved from Plymouth to the site in Southampton of Gilpatrick's warehouse and distribution facilities.

Mr Noel Hayes, Ross's managing director, said the intention was to move the company's telephone manufacturing operation from White City, west London, to

Southampton. Of Ross's 55 employees there, 47 have been made redundant and Mr Hayes said he expected to save £400,000 a year in overheads and labour costs.

Weslake and Gilpatrick together made £773,000 before tax in the year to June and when allowance is made for rental on the £5.1 million of properties acquired, Mr Hayes said this was equivalent to 11 times earnings. The effect of the acquisition was to raise asset backing at Ross from 16p to 47p per share.

The terms of the rights issue are 13-for-20 at 127p, compared with the 156p at which the shares were suspended. They had been placed at 165p when Ross came to the USM in June 1987, but had sunk to 46p before Mr Shute's arrival. After the latest deal, the combined 40 per cent stake held by Mr Shute and Mr Hayes will fall to about 25 per cent.

DTI role secure says Ridley

By Sheila Gunn Political Reporter

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has denied that he is planning to transfer investigations and prosecutions for insider dealing to other bodies.

He sought to dispel growing speculation about his plans for reforming the DTI in a letter to Mr Kenneth Warren, chairman of the Commons trade and industry select committee, which is investigating company investigations. It had been suggested that Mr Ridley wanted to transfer many DTI duties to the Securities and Investments Board.

Dr Marjorie Mowlam, City affairs spokeswoman for the Labour party, yesterday condemned the lack of protection for new investors. After the failure of two cases against alleged insider dealers, she said: "The Government is doing its best to divest itself of responsibility in cases of insider dealing."

Stratagem in fresh bid for Colonnade

By Our City Staff

Stratagem, a quoted investment company, has launched an £8.2 million bid for Colonnade Development Capital, an investment trust managed by British & Commonwealth.

Just before Christmas, Stratagem offered to bid 142p a share but has now raised its terms to 163p after Colonnade sold a stake in Kunkin. Originally it threatened to bid to thwart reorganization proposals, which Colonnade withdrew at the end of December. Colonnade's shareholders, which include a number of local authority pension funds, made it clear they would prefer the trust to be liquidated. Colonnade then said it would present new proposals within a few weeks.

Mr Bernard Kerrison, Stratagem's chairman, said he believed Colonnade's cash holdings had risen to £5.8 million after the sale of a small stake in Kunkin. Although much of the rest of the portfolio was in

unquoted investments or very small quoted companies, he was prepared to take on the risks involved in liquidation.

The bidder has only 4.5 per cent of Colonnade, but Mr Kerrison believes other shareholders will find the offer better than waiting for B&C Development Capital, which manages the trust, to liquidate it. Derbyshire County Council and Merseyside Superannuation Fund each hold 10 per cent and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority 7.3 per cent. Others include Barings, with 12 per cent, and B&C Ventures, with 8.7 per cent.

Colonnade immediately rejected the bid as inadequate. The board would present its own proposals for maximizing shareholder value once Plusflow, Stratagem's bidding vehicle, had despatched its offer document, it said. In the meantime, the board strongly advised shareholders to take no action.

Denial by Vivat firms share price

By Martin Waller

Vivat Holdings, the Lee Cooper jeans company, has denied talk of financial instability which has sent its share price sliding by up to a third in recent days.

Mr Michael Cooper, the chairman, said the company and its brokers knew of no reason for the speculation. "This company has returned to trading profitability, and we expect it to do so for the whole of 1990, even allowing for the fact that the retail trading environment is appalling and the news stories are getting worse and worse every day."

The reassuring statement, which repeated forecasts made over the past year by Mr Cooper as restructuring at Vivat has continued, helped its shares recover 2p to 45p, after a 15p fall the previous day and a further drop to 38p in early trading.

Mr Cooper said there had been "more talk than selling" on the stock market.

BTR pays £13.5m for TI offshoot

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

TI group has completed a restructuring programme by selling off TI Cox, its car seat mechanisms subsidiary, for £13.5 million to BTR, the industrial conglomerate. The deal is partly in cash and repayment of borrowings.

Cox has a Nottingham factory, with 900 employees, which is market leader in its field in Britain, supplying car makers such as Rolls-Royce, Jaguar, Land-Rover and Nissan. It also claims a "significant" share of the Continental market, supplying Volvo and Saab among others.

BTR, whose subsidiaries include Dunlop and Slazenger, said the acquisition was likely to make the Nottingham jobs more secure because BTR would team the Cox products with the production of car seat cushions made by its Dunlop subsidiary at factories in Yorkshire, south Wales and West Germany.

So far it has no plans for

extending facilities to make up more completed seats although Cox does have some production of this kind. Car makers still tend to do their own seat finishing but there may be a gradual switch to just-in-time (JIT) systems for seats using outside suppliers.

TI has been pruning back since 1987, to operate only in specialist engineering sectors where it is either already a world player or could become one. These sectors include mechanical seals, aircraft engine components and thermal technology.

One result of the policy was the decision to sell off its automotive interests where it was largely a European player. These had included the manufacture of exhausts and suspension struts.

With the sale of Cox, the last of its automotive interests, TI has raised about £180 million from divesting the automotive division.

Queens Moat denies holding talks with Balmoral Hotel groups line up for battle

By Matthew Bond

Directors of Queens Moat Houses, the commercial hotel group, spent yesterday closeted with Charterhouse, their merchant banking adviser, drafting the offer document for Norfolk Capital, the hotel and club group.

Suggestions that they might be meeting Balmoral International, Norfolk Capital's 13 per cent shareholder, were dismissed as "incorrect."

The only contact between the two parties since Queens Moat launched its £170 million bid for Norfolk Capital on Thursday has been one telephone call from Noble Crossart, Balmoral's adviser, to its counterpart, Charterhouse. It was described as a "courtesy call."

No further contact is expected over the weekend, as



Eyles: vote on dismissal



Tyrie: 'won support'

the three sides concerned concentrate on Monday morning's extraordinary meeting, to be held in London.

At that meeting the resolution to award Balmoral a five-year management contract to

run Norfolk, worth up to £9 million, is expected to be defeated.

The Queens Moat bid is conditional on the resolution being defeated. The likelihood of defeat is a virtual certainty

after Balmoral's decision to abstain from voting.

The outcome of the remaining resolutions to be considered by shareholders at the extraordinary meeting has been described as "irrelevant" by Queens Moat.

The resolutions include ousting Mr Peter Eyles as Norfolk's managing director and the election of three Balmoral executives, including Mr Peter Tyrie, its managing director, to the Norfolk Capital board.

Before the Queens Moat bid, the election of Mr Tyrie is believed to have had the support of two Norfolk directors, Lady Joseph, the widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, the founder of Norfolk Capital, and Mr Anthony Good.

Between them the two non-executive directors own 8 per cent of Norfolk's share capital.

BTS seeks £2.5m in share offer

By Neil Bennett

BTS Group is calling on shareholders for help in its transformation from an ailing tyre remoulding company to an office services group. It is raising £2.5 million in a two-for-three share offer to cut its short-term debts and increase working capital.

The news came when the company produced pre-tax profits for the half-year to end-September of £173,000, up 114 per cent. This was despite heavy losses from the car tyre remoulding subsidiary at the start of the period — cut in the summer and autumn.

Turnover surged by 65 per cent to £9.3 million. There is no interim dividend but a final payout of 0.75p is planned, up from 0.5p. BTS is placing 5.59 million shares at 47p.

Johnson Fry's new BES offers.

Launch Date	Company	Business	Maximum Subscription
17th Jan	JF Quality Coaching Inns	Series of hotel companies	£500,000 x 20
24th Jan	JF "Waterside Collection" and Special Opportunities	Series of £5m companies investing in residential property	£5m x 18
30th Jan	Edinburgh Tankers	A 4th Issue for this oil tanker company	£5m
2nd Feb	JF Premier Nursing Homes	Series of Nursing Home companies	£500,000 x 20

Johnson Fry Corporate Finance Ltd, 20 Regent St, London SW1Y 4PZ
Tel. 01-321 0220 (24 hours) (main)

Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks than investment in quoted companies. Expert advice should be sought before proceeding to invest. Applications to subscribe will only be accepted on the terms and conditions set out in the Prospectus.

Alun-Jones wins by having nothing to lose

The Ferranti chairman's face-to-face talks with Lord Weinstock secured the company's future, as David Brewerton discovered

This week, for the first time since last summer, Sir Derek Alun-Jones, chairman of Ferranti International Signal, had reason to smile.

The future of his troubled company, victim, he says, of a £215 million fraud, was secured by the sale of its defence systems business to General Electric Company.

The deal was done, not by bankers and advisers, but by Alun-Jones, battling face to face with Lord Weinstock, chairman of GEC.

The two sides started well apart. Lord Weinstock did not want to pay more than £150 million, but Ferranti needed £300 million and GEC needed to strengthen its position in airborne radar.

In the negotiations, Alun-

Jones had one unbeatable card in his hand: he had nothing to lose.

His reputation was already damaged because he failed to notice that International Signal was a long-running fraud. He has already offered to resign and is staying on only long enough to get Ferranti out of his hole.

If Lord Weinstock did not accept the terms, Ferranti would trigger a £187 million rights issue and get out of trouble that way.

On Tuesday night, the two men agreed at £310 million, but that included a few extras that Lord Weinstock also wanted. "I was done again by Arnold," Alun-Jones joked.

The negotiations went through a series of twists and

turns, including joint companies, which GEC would control. Ferranti needed 49 per cent of a GEC subsidiary "like I needed a hole in the head."

In the event, as Alun-Jones would admit, there was an element of luck in the deal, because everybody got something out of it — the MoD, GEC and Ferranti.

Ferranti has sold a quarter of its turnover, but the remaining group still has turnover of £600 million making good margins.

Half is in computer systems

and the other half split equally between weapons and electronics.

But while Alun-Jones is relieved that Ferranti can pull through its difficulties — and that if he can also sell Marquardt, once part of International Signal — Ferranti could end the year with no debt and cash in the bank, he does not underestimate the damage that has been inflicted.

There is little sign of remorse when Alun-Jones turns to the subject of International Signal, and James Guerin, the

man who founded it. Alun-Jones insists that there were no "city warnings" that Ferranti would come to grief if it bought ISC.

Those who have had access to the "report" prepared by Lazard Bros would tend to agree.

Its concern is mainly with the dilution implications of the de Ferranti family stakes, and there is not a whisper that ISC might have been anything less than it seemed.

Similarly, nobody at the Ministry of Defence has come out of the woodwork to claim,

on the record, that Alun-Jones was told not to buy it.

That said, ISC was already a mirage when Ferranti purchased it.

Ferranti has been back into the accounts and finds that throughout the 1960s, ISC was trading either at a loss or close to breakeven.

The whole thing was going on before Ferranti arrived. "We bought the results of the fraud," says Alun-Jones. It is hoping to claw back some of the money it has lost, if not all of it, from Peat Marwick Mitchell, the auditor, against

which writs were issued this week.

Alun-Jones is not afraid to admit that he was taken in by Guerin, and even that he was sometimes afraid of being upstaged in the Ferranti boardroom by his younger Transatlantic deputy chairman.

Guerin was a salesman, selling himself and his company, but this was not at all unusual in the defence business.

The takeover was seen as a way of setting ISC salesmanship alongside Ferranti technology.

In fact, Guerin was hoping that Ferranti would be able to "cobble together the products which ISC has already sold."

Alun-Jones claims that he

was the last director on the board to agree the ISC takeover.

It is also relevant that the deal to buy ISC came after several minor deals with Ferranti which had made the company "a couple of million dollars."

Ferranti had loaned Guerin \$1 million in 1981, and had the money back again.

Guerin used to drop in when he was passing through London, but Alun-Jones insists he never stayed at his house.

But Guerin impressed the Ferranti board. "He was full of energy and life and I must say that my directors felt that one of the assets of the merger would be this wonderful man coming in."

Guerin, ISC and the Pretoria connection

The links between Mr James Guerin and South Africa are emerging as a crucial element in the scandal surrounding International Signal and Control, the subsidiary of Ferranti International he founded 20 years ago.

In his first detailed response to allegations of fraud against the British defence group, which bought ISC in 1987, Mr Guerin revealed he had been aware for more than two years that the company was under investigation as part of an inquiry into illegal shipments to South Africa.

The investigation by a Philadelphia grand jury involved US Customs and Internal Revenue Service.

It covered "South African shipments and what sounded like other things, but I didn't know what those things were," Mr Guerin said in a sworn deposition.

Mr Guerin, aged 59, who now lives in Naples, Florida, said he became aware of the investigation in 1987. He added that he learned a month ago of a similar inquiry into his son's company. He could not name that company, although he said his son, James Harvey Guerin, had worked there about a year.

Mr Guerin senior's ties to South Africa go back to the early 1970s, just after he started ISC in his basement in 1971. He began to look abroad for business and started trading with Armscor, Pretoria's state-owned arms corporation, and Barlow Rand, the country's largest industrial conglomerate.

His access to South African military information made him valuable to the US and he became a CIA informant, according to US reports. He continued to report to CIA officials on political and military developments in South Africa, including Pretoria's efforts to build a nuclear bomb, into the mid-1980s.

In 1975, President Ford authorized a top-secret plan under which Mr Guerin would sell equipment to South Africa to track Soviet submarines in the Indian Ocean and then share the data with Washington. President Carter killed the project in 1978.

In the late 1970s, federal investigators began examining allegations that ISC had illegally supplied guns and rifles to South Africa, the US reports say.

A federal task force is believed to be investigating the use of a shell company — Gamma Systems Associates — for alleged smuggling to South Africa.

Gamma's business records were found at the house of Mr Guerin's brother-in-law, Mr

The central player in the Ferranti affair has put his side of the story in the US. James Bone reports

Carl Jacobsen, during a separate fraud investigation.

Mr Jacobsen pleaded guilty last year to charges that he paid \$255,000 to a Navy procurement official in the Westech scandal involving a minority-owned defence contractor in the South Bronx neighbourhood of New York.

Investigators are believed to be studying the possible use of Gamma and a freight company at New York's John F Kennedy airport by an ISC unit to ship equipment illegally to companies with links to the South African military.

In his deposition, Mr Guerin refused to answer questions about his relationship with Gamma. He said he learned of a federal probe of Gamma "at least as far back as

● He continued to report to the CIA on military developments in South Africa ●

early 1988 or late 1987."

He also refused to respond to questions about Barlow Rand and four other companies — Technology Associates International, Elverson, Sestri Associates and Navarion Development. He also declined to answer an inquiry about Lerwick Holdings or an ISC project known as Damarul.

He was asked several more questions by an attorney representing the former general council of ISC, also unsuccessfully.

"Did ISC sell integrated circuits, antennas and other hi-tech communications equipment to South Africa?"

"Did those sales stop in the early months of 1989?"

"Did ISC make any sales to South Africa not having requisite government approval?"

Despite his disappearance when Ferranti's charges were first made last autumn, Mr Guerin has now apparently decided to confront the allegations of fraud head-on.

On January 9, he made his first public appearance since the scandal broke to give sworn testimony in an acrimonious severance dispute with Mr William Clark ISC's former general counsel, who is suing for payment of an outstanding \$1.75 million of a severance agreement worth \$2.75 million.

Mr Guerin's strategy as re-

vealed in the 332-page deposition, is to claim he kept Ferranti informed about a possible \$300 million shortfall.

He claimed he met Sir Derek Alun-Jones and Mr Charles Scott, an officer of the British company, in January 1989 and told them of problems with two key deals.

The deals were known as the KP contract with Pakistan, believed to be for the supply of missiles, and the Alpha contract, a secret missile deal involving the United Arab Emirates and China.

Mr Guerin repeatedly refused to answer questions about the KP deal, which Ferranti claims was bogus. He said the Alpha contract was part of a secret five-year \$386 million deal to supply 2,000 Hawk missiles to the UAE, known as the PGM deal.

The shortfall on the Alpha contract resulted not from the relationship between ISC and the UAE but from a side agreement with China.

Mr Guerin had agreed to provide know-how, designs, test and production data, training and maintenance requirements from the UAE project to a Chinese enterprise called Northern China Industries, or Norinco.

But Norinco demanded ISC provide a second customer — another country, to take the missiles that it would build off its hands. No such country was found, so Norinco did not pay any money to ISC.

"I identified that we had a serious collectability problem in the KP programme because of [Pakistan's president] Zia's death and other considerations, including the wind-down of the war in Afghanistan, the change in the political structure of Pakistan, the uncompletion of the teaming arrangements with China."

"These were all considerations. And I reported that we had a \$200 million collectability problem at this point."

"I further identified on the Alpha programme that we had not been able to find a third country customer, that, therefore, we had to face up to the fact of collectability under that contract. And I reported that in the vicinity of \$100 million."

Mr Guerin testified that Ferranti had begun to get worried about the Alpha contract in mid-1988. "There were general questions raised by Charles Scott," he said.

After the January 1989

meeting, Sir Derek and Mr Scott began looking at the contracts more closely.

"Their interests in those contracts had gone up two notches after our meeting in January and continued in that form," Mr Guerin said.

By March 1989, Mr Guerin was aware that Ferranti had assigned Mr Alan Cooper, its corporate counsel, to look into the status of licensing on all contracts within the Pennsylvania subsidiary.

"He had concerns on the Alpha programme and whether or not, on the movement of products, proper licenses have been applied for, if we had responsibility for that," Mr Guerin said. Those concerns centred on the

● Their interests in those contracts had gone up two notches after our meeting in January ●

movement of goods between South Africa, Belgium, Chile and China, he said.

Mr Cooper had similar concerns about the KP programme, Mr Guerin said that at the January meeting, he offered to buy back ISC, which was bought by Ferranti for \$670 million, in a \$350 million leveraged buyout as a way out of the problems.

"Having reported the \$300 million problem at that point in time, I further proposed a solution in the best interest of the shareholders and all concerned, and that was the LBO."

Mr Guerin said an LBO would revive ISC because the UAE would provide it with work as a private company which it would not give to Ferranti.

"We had confidence with the addition of those programmes, within which Ferranti would have participated in a sub-contract area, that we could have solved the dilemma of this uncollectability."

The dispute with Mr Clark focuses on Mr Guerin's contention that the former general counsel tried to blackmail him into agreeing a \$2.75 million severance payment.

Mr Guerin charges that Mr Clark claimed he had "packages of information" implicating ISC officers in illegalities.

Mr Clark said he had "information concerning il-

legal shipments to South Africa, information on manipulating data having to do with auditors, information concerning pay-offs of foreign officials, information concerning misleading the auditors of the corporation," Mr Guerin testified.

Mr Guerin said Mr Clark named a number of ISC officials, including Mr Joseph Zilligen, concerning misleading auditors and other improprieties on the accounts; Mr Carl Dreyer, concerning rotation of funds in the company and unreal sales; Mr William Schneider, concerning alteration of time cards on US government contracts; Mr Clyde Ivy and Mr Terry Faulds, concerning illegal shipments to South Africa; and Mr Bob Shireman, concerning alteration of accounts and providing misleading information to auditors.

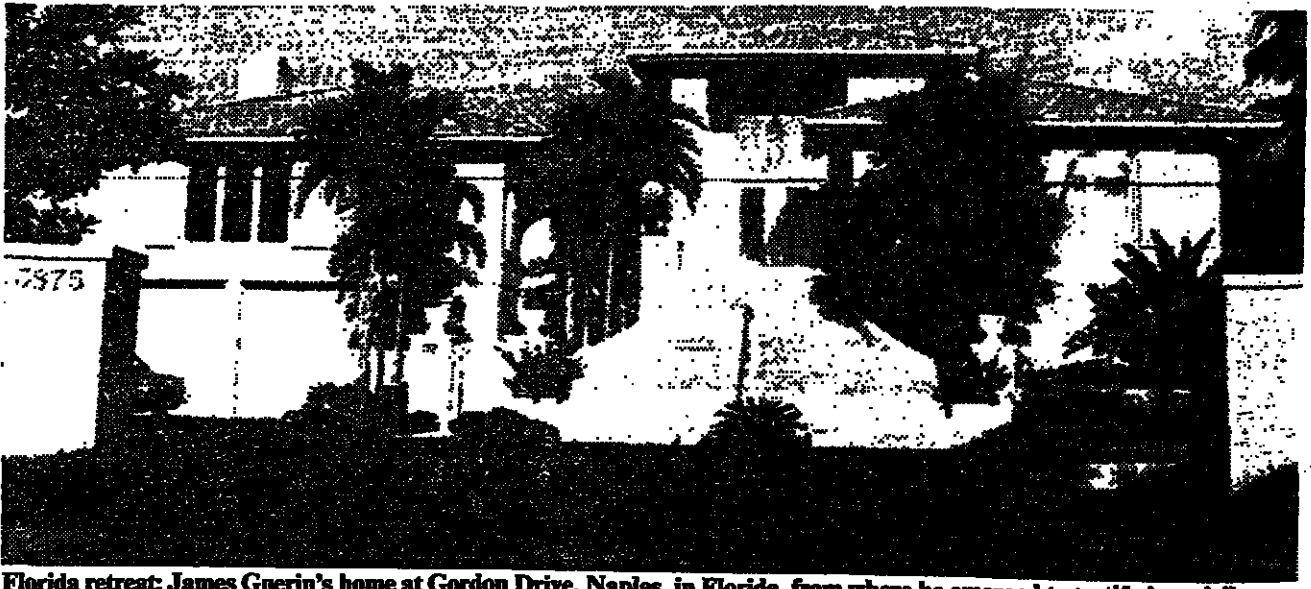
Mr Zilligen was a member of Ferranti's main board until November and Ferranti has already served a writ on Mr Shireman suing him for damages arising from the £215 million hole found in Ferranti's assets last September.

Mr Guerin said Mr Clark also raised the name of a television reporter Mr Keith Martin, who resigned on Thursday after being suspended this week by WGAL-TV while it investigated whether his work for ISC posed a conflict of interest. Mr Clark demanded a pay-off, Mr Guerin said. "I recognized that with the gun to my head, I had to control the trigger finger."

Fearing Mr Clark's allegations would jeopardise efforts to carry out the planned LBO of ISC, Mr Guerin agreed to his demands, he testified. When asked if he believed there was any truth to Mr Clark's charges, Mr Guerin said: "I didn't know, I didn't know."



James Guerin: he knew for two years ISC was under inquiry over its South African connections



Florida retreat: James Guerin's home at Gordon Drive, Naples, in Florida, from where he emerged to testify in a civil case

Options that put division into Weinstock's arms



Lord Weinstock: decided to 'see off' Thomson-CSF for good

The Ministry of Defence put together a report for submission to the Office of Fair Trading yesterday on GEC's £310 million purchase this week of Ferranti's radar division.

Considering the MoD's vital role in stitching the deal together, it is unlikely the ministry will recommend vetoing the acquisition on competition grounds. Indeed, the future success of Britain's radar industry hinges on it proceeding unhindered by regulators.

West Germany had balked at awarding the £2 billion European Fighter Aircraft radar contract to Ferranti when the company announced it was in difficulties in September. At that time, however, the MoD gave clear signals that it would not favour such a marriage so soon after GEC and Siemens, its West German partner, spent £2 billion buying Plessey.

But the changes across Eastern Europe and the effect they were exerting on Nato thinking pushed the MoD to shift its policy, too.

Instead of being concerned mostly about maintaining competition within the UK in airborne military radar, the MoD decided it should make sure that Britain had at least one company with the technology and critical mass to be competitive in the world market.

Angela Mackay reports on a purchase that ensures Britain keeps a lion's share of EFA radar contract

fence minister, accelerated a consideration of the options.

What the MoD decided was that Ferranti would have to amputate a healthy limb to ensure a British company won the lion's share of the EFA contract and kept the technology on-shore.

Lord Weinstock, GEC's chairman, was circling Ferranti when the company announced it was in difficulties in September. At that time, however, the MoD gave clear signals that it would not favour such a marriage so soon after GEC and Siemens, its West German partner, spent £2 billion buying Plessey.

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Instead of being concerned mostly about maintaining competition within the UK in airborne military radar, the MoD decided it should make sure that Britain had at least one company with the technology and critical mass to be competitive in the world market.

The MoD gave the idea of a merger the

green light, particularly after Thomson-CSF, the French defence group, withdrew on Thursday, January 18, as a potential suitor, the last of a list of a dozen companies.

Sir Derek Alun-Jones had turned down the French group's offer of just over £200 million for the defence systems division and half of the Italian operations, leaving the French to go back to talks on a purely divisional level on joint ventures.

Negotiations between Lord Weinstock and Sir Derek had progressed on a fairly relaxed level but once Thomson walked away, negotiations between GEC, the MoD and Ferranti accelerated.

The MoD and GEC had hoped to have a price and heads of agreements signed by Friday afternoon, but there was no consensus. Adding to the tension was Sir Derek's decision to be incommunicado over the weekend on a shoot. The price was set only on Monday, just before the two defence ministers met to discuss among other matters the EFA radar contract.

Lord Weinstock decided that, to "see off"

Thomson for good, he had to pay over the odds for the defence systems division in the belief that the French would not better the price or care to face the political flak once the MoD had agreed to the GEC deal.

If a company were to bid over the top of GEC they would be looking at paying at least £400 million or 54p a share for all of Ferranti. This amount would be swelled by an additional £400 million by taking the company's debt on board.

What GEC's purchase has clearly identified is the creation of two distinct platforms in the European defence systems industry in the 1990s.

On one hand is a GEC/Matra/Daimler-Benz/Aeritalia configuration and on the other a Thomson-CSF/British Aerospace/Aérospatiale alignment. Both groups have major rival contracts in the pipeline — GEC the EFA contract and Thomson the Raphael fighter — and Lord Weinstock, by paying more than anyone expected for Ferranti's defence, has done his best to set the groupings in concrete.

● Mr Eugene Anderson, the former chief of John Matthey plc, the precious metals refiner, is still involved in discussions with Ferranti on assuming the chief executive's position at Ferranti. He has emerged as the front runner for the job.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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THIRD MARKET

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FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Barbara Ellis reports SIB and Lautro moves

Regulators crack down on poor tied agent supervision

A crackdown on insurance companies for failing to supervise their exclusive sales agents began on Thursday when investment regulators acted against National Financial Management Corporation and its tied agents, the Garston Amburst Group. The latter is reported to be under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

Investors had reported the group's directors and salesmen missing, along with money. While the Securities and Investments Board went to the High Court to have the Official Receiver appointed provisional liquidator of five Garston Amburst companies, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation ordered National Financial to carry out an audit and a compliance inspection of all its 96 appointed representative firms by March 1 and May 1 respectively. National Financial will be barred from doing any further business with these firms unless its dealings with them are shown to meet Lautro standards.

Thursday's moves came a week after investors began contacting Lautro for help in recovering their money from Garston Amburst. They could not find directors, Mr Dickon Wright and Mr Jim Krekis, at either of the group's offices at Chelsea Harbour, London or Bristol.

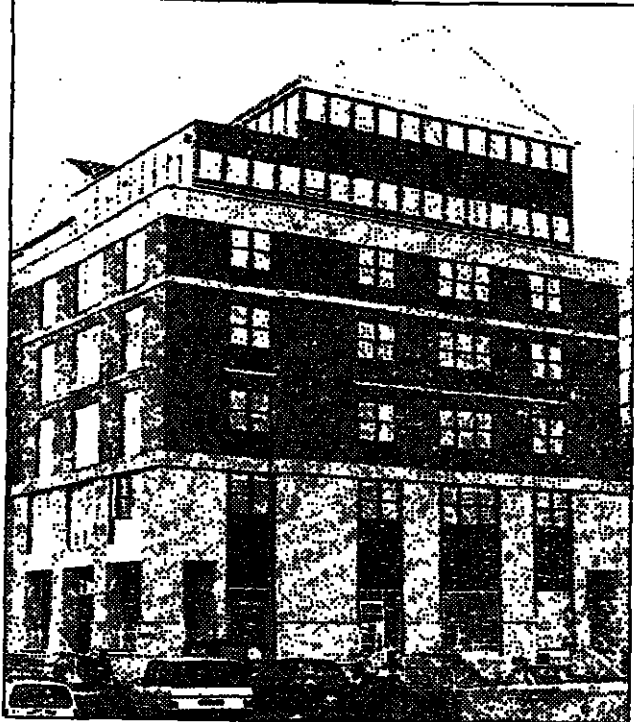
A firm of accountants had also alerted SIB to an attempt to put Garston Amburst into voluntary liquidation. By making its order against National Financial public, Lautro abandoned its practice of keeping disciplinary action confidential and sounded a warning to other insurance companies.

"In the opinion of the board, NFMC appeared not to be exercising adequate control over its appointed representatives," said the Lautro statement, indicating that the organization had looked into compliance procedures relating to NFMC appointed representatives other than Garston Amburst.

National Financial is a division of Target Life which is owned by TSB. Mr Paul Taylor National Financial's chief executive, who is also managing director of Target, said that Garston Amburst has been doing investment and pensions business worth about £250,000 a year in commission — about 2 to 3 per cent of National Financial's total business through tied agents.

"We have been checking that business very thoroughly and there is nothing wrong with it," he said.

Although a full compliance



Fraud inquiry: Garston Amburst offices at Chelsea Harbour

check on Garston Amburst done by National Financial in September had seemed satisfactory, Mr Taylor said that for the past six months his company had been keeping a close watch on the group to make sure it had not set up client accounts. Its tied agents are under instructions to have all cheques from investors made out direct to National Financial. The insurer became suspicious because of a signature on a proposal form which appeared to have been traced.

Mr Taylor explained that National Financial sought a certificate from Garston Amburst's auditors to say whether or not any client accounts were in existence.

A certificate stating that there were no client accounts was supplied by Sieff Davidson Financial Services, a company whose shares were held by directors of Garston Amburst until a few weeks ago, according to Mr Taylor, who added that control had then been switched to Mr David Evans, who ran Sieff Davidson.

The certificate did not satisfy National Financial, which told Garston Amburst it would be sending in Peat Marwick on Monday January 29 for a full audit. Mr Taylor said the Garston Amburst directors had tried to put the companies into voluntary liquidation 10 days ago.

As a tied agent of National Financial, Garston Amburst should have dealt exclusively in that company's products, but one investor told Lautro he had handed over money for fixed interest deposits and

that National Financial had not been mentioned.

"Nobody has lost money from National Financial," said Mr Taylor, "but we understand that Garston Amburst sold products not connected with us."

Lautro explained that the outlook was bleak for investors if tied agents failed after having sold them investments unconnected with the company they represented. These investors are without recourse to compensation from the insurance company of the tied agent or from the Investors' Compensation Scheme.

Although insurance and unit trust companies belonging to Lautro are responsible for "anything said, done or omitted" by their tied agents, this obligation relates only to the companies' own products. Customers of tied agents who fail have no claim on the Investors' Compensation Scheme.

Sieff Davidson is also an authorized business. A Fimbra spokeswoman said that the association's compliance officers were "looking at" Sieff Davidson. Concern over lax supervision of tied agents has been growing since the £9.6 million collapse of Homes Assured Corporation last year brought it spectacularly into the open. But until this week, the extent of the problem had been masked by Lautro's insistence on secrecy.

Last week's collapse of the Asset Management Group, which traded as the Mortgage Advice Centre also appeared to raise questions of supervision. It had been a tied agent of Legal & General since 1987.

Liquidator's fees threaten to absorb small investors' money

Small investors are once again in dispute with a liquidator over the ownership of shares held by an investment company. The latest case involves a group of investors who believe they proved their title to shares 18 months ago but fear the shares will be sold to cover the liquidator's fees.

A group of 50 to 60 investors is anxiously waiting to find out whether or not its shares will be sold or handed over after an 18-month battle to pay accountants, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte.

The investors, who say they have established they are the registered owners of most of the shares, had allowed LEV Investment & Management to hold them for safekeeping. They have been summoned to a meeting by the liquidator, Coopers Deloitte on Wednesday to hear proposals for the disposal of LEV assets. LEV went into voluntary liquidation in July 1988.

The investors hope that they will be told that they can have the shares which have been held by the liquidator, originally Deloitte Haskins & Sells, since it won a court order in August 1988. This gave the liquidator the right to take responsibility for all share certificates in the possession, custody or control of the company, to sell the shares if they wished and meet the liquidator's costs and expenses from the proceeds.

Despite shareholders providing documentary evidence of their right to most of the shareholdings including contract notes, cashed cheques, letters from the registrars of companies and letters from LEV detailing their shareholdings, the liquidator has continued to hold the shares, stating that ownership was not conclusively proved.

A spokesman for a large firm of accountants said that



Shares worth £10,000: Mr Ken Ives fears he will be a loser

usually those shareholders, who were on company registers would receive shares.

One investor, Mr Ken Ives of Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, bought shares worth about £10,000 and has since watched the value of some of them drop. He has been uncertain as to whether or not he will receive the shares to which company share registers say he is entitled.

LEV told him that the company was ceasing to trade and that he was the owner of 3,800 Chloride Group shares, 3,000 Blacks Leisure, 2,500 Elswick, 1,000 Energy Capital, 1,000 Walker Greenbank and 1,500 of 600 Group shares. The letter said no money

was outstanding and the stocks owing to him would be forwarded as soon as received from the relevant registrars. Mr Ives, who immediately wrote to the company secretaries to confirm his ownership of the shares, has been battling with the liquidator ever since.

"Deloitte is saying to me, and the other investors that it is difficult to prove ownership of the shares. In my case there is only one of the shares that there is any kind of dispute about," said Mr Ives.

Mr Mark Hanson, former principal trader of LEV, is in the position of being both a creditor and of owing the firm money. He said the stock had been held in a nominee account until two to three months before liquidation.

"I then instructed brokers that all stock must be transferred into clients names," he said and added that he had spent three days matching shares to clients after the firm went into liquidation. "In only about four instances the stock was not there. Everyone else could have been paid out. It seems unfair that they have not had their stock," Mr Hanson declared.

"There are a number of shares where the ownership is not absolutely clear," said Mr Timothy Harris, the liquidator. "Early on we were given authority to take possession of the shares. We are going back to court to decide how they will be dealt with. The shares have not been sold. It will be up to the representatives of investors to oppose the proposals if they feel they are unfair."

Mr Harris said it had not always been possible to trace ownership and that shares not allocated were likely to be pooled.

Lindsay Cook

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Golden start

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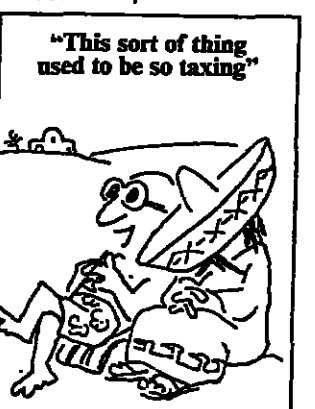
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We'd rather not talk about 1983.

We'd rather not talk about 1983, nor would we wish to talk about any other year in isolation, even those in which we came first.

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1977 1st	1987 1st
1978 1st	1988 1st
1979 2nd	1989 3rd
1980 1st	
1981 2nd	
1982 3rd	
1983 4th	
1984 2nd	
1985 1st	
1986 1st	

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Not that we are content to rest on our laurels.

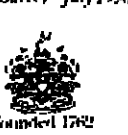
We know as well as anyone that past performance is no guarantee of future success.

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*Planned Savings Survey - July 1990



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Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____
Name of your financial adviser (if any): _____

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Help lines after storm

As homeowners sit down to count the damage caused by this week's storm, insurance companies are urging their policyholders to make temporary repairs and get in touch as soon as they can.

Branches will be staying open and extra staff are manning telephone helplines to get claims moving as quickly as possible. Many insurers have taken large advertisements in weekend newspapers.

Sun Alliance, which insures more private homes than any other British insurer, said it was keeping its offices open over the weekend. General Accident branches in the worst-hit areas will remain open today, and the number of staff on the telephone helpline has been doubled.

Guardian Royal Exchange is advising customers to make temporary repairs at once and number and keep any bills. Special GRE helplines open today include Birmingham: 021-643 7161, Glasgow 041-248 2966, and Southampton 0703 229 321.

Jon Ashworth

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*Planned Savings Survey of 10, 15 and 20 year regular contribution with-profit personal pension plans 1974-1989.

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Date of Birth

Tel (Home)

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Before you look to your future, look to our past.

Lloyds launches current account for top earners

By Jon Ashworth

- The Gold Rush -



Lloyds Bank is out to catch the eye of Britain's top earners with its first new current account for more than a year.

The Gold Service account, to be launched a week on Monday, will be open to people earning in excess of £20,000 a year. It will pay interest of up to 9.2 per cent on amounts of £10,000, and allow an instant overdraft of at least £2,500.

Mr Gordon Pell, assistant general manager of personal banking, said the account combined high credit interest and low borrowing rates to provide a simple current account for higher earners. "Classic was the first interest-bearing account to be launched by a bank and we are now building on its success."

The number of Lloyds customers to open a Classic Account since its launch has risen to 1.25 million. The bank has set the more modest goal for Gold Service of 100,000 in the first year.

"There are 50,000 people with a gold Amex card issued by Lloyds, so we should have no difficulty in reaching our

goal," said a spokeswoman. "Customers should usually be earning a bit over £20,000, and are likely to keep at least £1,000 in their account."

There is a guaranteed minimum overdraft of £2,500 at 1.4 per cent per month.

This would mean an annual percentage rate of 18.1 per cent, and a real annual percentage rate of 22.3 per cent inclusive of the fee on a typical overdraft.

Account holders will be given a gold version of the standard Lloyds Visa payment card, incorporating a £250 cheque guarantee facility and £200 daily cashpoint withdrawals.

Travel benefits include commission-free travellers' cheques and currency, a free Eurocheque card, and referral to legal or medical help.

Up to £100,000 will be provided in travel and accident cover if tickets are bought using the Premier Payment Card as a Visa debit card.

There is no fee for clients who keep at least £1,000 in their account each month.

Tony Hetherington on a tale of property woe

Wind-up order on holiday club

The Department of Trade and Industry has won a High Court order to wind up Property Club Sales plc, a holiday property company.

In October, 1988, *The Times* reported how the company offered holidays for life in return for a lump-sum investment, but actually it owned none of the vacation properties pictured in its sales brochures and, indeed, owed money to a string of banks, accountants, graphic designers and marketing agents.

The company offered franchises to the public for about £5,000 each.

Franchise-holders had the right to market the scheme in their area, drawing a commission for each new member signed up.

Many franchisees said that they were told that the club's property assets were held in trust by the Gibraltar & Iberian Bank.

However, officials of the bank in Gibraltar said that they had had to resign early in 1988 because fees owing to them had not been paid.

No properties were ever entrusted to them.

The winding up order was made in the public interest, under Section 440 of the Companies Act, and follows a confidential inquiry conducted by DTI officials under Section 447.

The Official Receiver has been named liquidator of the company.

DTI officials said this week that "as a matter of course" the Official Receiver would be investigating claims of wrongful trading against the company.

reporting to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Nicholas Ridley, on whether or not there are grounds for disqualifying any of the individuals involved from acting as company directors in the future.



The Club Concept

Property Club International brochure: checks in store

BRIEFINGS

Investors with at least £10,000 to spare can earn more than 12 per cent net interest on a new account from Bradford & Bingley. The third issue of the popular Maximiser Elite account guarantees a return of 5 per cent over the variable ordinary share rate until February 1991. It currently pays 11.75 net, or 12.09 if interest is capitalized annually. Tel (0274) 568111.

Bradford & Bingley is also out to attract new borrowers by offering a rate of 13.9 per cent on mortgages of £60,000. It has increased the differential on its higher loans to 0.6 per cent, guaranteed for at least two years. Borrowers with loans between £30,000 and £60,000 are due a 0.25 per cent differential. Loans must be 75 per cent or less of valuation.

A welcome bonus is at hand for Leeds Permanent customers who open a new Special Edition investment account. The account pays a higher rate over one year of 11.44 per cent on £5,000 or more, and 12 per cent after tax on at least £75,000. Investors can have instant access to their money.

The latest in branchless banking has been launched by the Scarborough Building Society, which is making it easier for customers to bank by post. Its Investments Direct service, will use Freepost and Freephone to attract customers who cannot easily get

to a branch. There is a guaranteed 24-hour turnaround. Tel (0723) 368155.

Midland Bank Fund Managers, based in Jersey, is launching a new umbrella fund on February 5. The Midland International Circuit Fund will allow investors to choose between three levels of risk, through a series of international funds. The minimum investment is £5,000, with a 1 per cent discount in the first three months. The upfront charge is 6 per cent, and annual management fees range from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Gartmore's Luxembourg-based UCITS umbrella fund, the Gartmore Pantheon Fund, can now be freely marketed in Britain, after being recognized by the Securities and Investments Board. Pantheon, which draws on 18 funds, allows investors to either draw income or roll it up into capital. Gains will be liable to UK income tax.

The latest in a batch of school fees planners has been published by Save & Prosper. The new guide looks at capital plans, which can provide a high guaranteed return from a lump sum, along with endowment policies which pay out a tax-free lump sum after several years. S&P has a free Moneyline on 0800 282 101.

Barclay's Capital Advantage savings account has attracted more than £5 billion in funds in the 19 months since

its launch. The account currently pays net interest at 10.75 per cent on one month's notice - equivalent to an annual net rate of 11.19 per cent. The minimum balance is £10,000, and customers can withdraw without notice subject to a minimum fee of £10.

There is no need to move offshore to be paid interest gross on savings, according to Cater Allen, which offers savers a choice of Jersey or London. But investors must have at least £50,000 in their account to get interest paid gross in Britain. The Consort Account presently pays interest of 14.25 per cent, with a compounded annual rate of 15.65 per cent.

Parents and grandparents can set £25 aside each month for a child's benefit through a Children's Gift Plan, run by TSB Unit Trusts. Linked to TSB's Environmental Investor Fund, it allows capital to build up through regular savings or lump sums of at least £500. When a child turns 18 the proceeds may be transferred.

Prolific is offering a 1 per cent discount on investments made to its range of personal equity plans between February 1 and March 28. The Prolific Income Pep allows investors to receive gross income through the group's high income unit trust. The Growth Pep invests in the Prolific Special Situations unit trust, with gross income reinvested.

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*Comparison of instant access accounts with similar facilities from major High Street Banks and Building Societies on 16 January 1990. Minimum balance: £500. The highest new Top Tier rates are: £10,000-£49,999, 10.75%; £50,000+, 10.75%. Interest rates quoted are net and current at time of going to press, but may vary. Interest is calculated daily and paid half yearly. Co-operative Bank plc is a member of IMRO.

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FAMILY MONEY

Tony Hetherington looks at a futures dealer rejected by the AFBF

Six-fold earner claim is referred to watchdog

Officials at the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, the watchdog body for the futures industry, are believed to be examining an advertising mailshot issued by Mordens Ltd, a City firm of futures dealers whose application to join AFBF has already been rejected twice.

The mailshot, in the form of a personalised letter, offers an investment in FT-SE futures which is essentially a gamble on which way the FT-SE 100 share index will move over a given period.

Mordens' new FT-SE Managed Account is said to employ an advanced computer trading programme which has been rigorously tested with years of historical market data. "It goes with the flows, it bends with the trends," the company claims.

What has led some recipients to forward the mailshot to AFBF regulators, is its suggestion that, had they invested £6,000 in January 1987, their account would have been worth £37,605 by the end of November 1989.

The objectors point out that during 1987 and 1988, Mordens actually invested clients' funds in a way which, far from multiplying their investment six-fold, resulted in substantial losses.

Under the Financial Services Act, Mordens is obliged to join AFBF but its application for membership was rejected. In October 1988 AFBF confirmed its initial decision, giving as its principal reason "its concern at the excessive aggregate commissions charged which, combined with trading losses on customer accounts, resulted in substantial dissipation of clients' funds and demonstrated the failure of the applicant to 'act in the best interests of customers'".

Mordens then asked for its appeal to be considered by a respected City figure not associated with AFBF. An AFBF spokesman declined to comment on the progress of Mordens' appeal but explained: "The procedure is that we invite the Governor of the Bank of England in the first instance, or failing him, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to appoint an independent commissioner. The commissioner has the power to draw his own procedure."

The commissioner considering Mordens' appeal is Mr Keith Goldie-Morrison, a leading member of the Stock Exchange. While the appeal is heard, Mordens remain interim authorized, a status held by firms which applied to join AFBF before February 29, 1988. This is a key date on which part of the Financial Services Act came into force. Interim authorized applications have still not been finalised. Several hundred applicants have been accepted or rejected by the Association and fewer than a dozen putative members still hold interim authority. Almost all those on the interim authorized list have suspended business, leaving Mordens as the most active.

New applicants for membership cannot claim interim authority and are barred from engaging in investment business until actually accepted.

For investors, the main



Investors' watchdog: entrance to the offices of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers



Nameplate: the City firm of futures dealers which has been rejected twice by AFBF

disadvantage in dealing with a firm not fully authorized is that they fall outside the City's investor protection scheme, which guarantees compensation of up to £48,000 should an investment company fail, taking its clients' funds with it.

There is also a practical problem, in that futures trading is a fast-moving business. Clients could be left stranded, with nobody monitoring their investments, if a firm were closed down at a moment's notice by the authorities.

AFBF officials are well aware that if Mordens' appeal is turned down, clients with time-sensitive futures contracts could be seriously disadvantaged.

One official said this week: "That is a problem we would

be monitoring closely. We would have to anticipate that position and negotiate with the Securities & Investments Board and the company about how it would be covered."

Mordens is also considering the position of its clients. "We are currently about to become introducing brokers, because we were concerned that this thing has gone on for so long that clients are not covered by

the compensation fund," said Mr Christopher Lydiard-Wilson, a director. "We will stop holding clients' money, but simply be advisers on their accounts."

Mr Lydiard-Wilson denied that the move meant Mordens would not press its appeal to join AFBF. "We are pressing it even more vigorously than before, because we still believe we are right."

Apparent cash spinner: Mordens' optimistic mailshot

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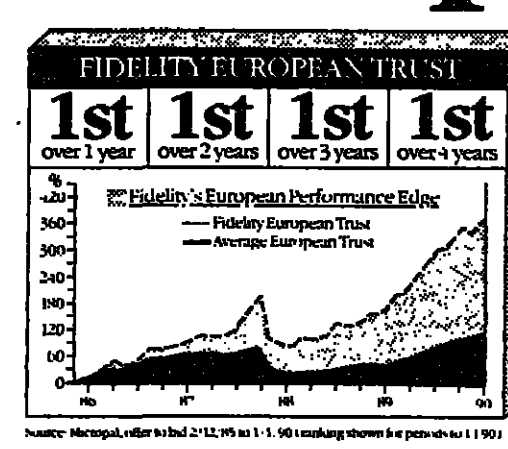
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Mortgage crackdown

People who fall behind on their mortgage repayments are being forced to pay up to 2 per cent over the going rate by a core of hard-line lenders. As many as 30 lenders, including top names such as Equity and Law and Guardian Royal Exchange, add the penalty when mortgages are in arrears, according to a survey by Mortgage Magazine.

The survey found many of the new breed of centralised lenders favoured penalty rates, even though the number of people falling behind on their payments is steadily rising. As many as 45,000 home owners were more than six months behind at the end of the first half of 1989.

According to the magazine, Equity and Law adds 1 per cent to its mortgage rate for borrowers in arrears; Guardian Royal Exchange adds 2 per cent; and the Cheshire Building Society levies 2 per cent of arrears per month.

Andrew Stuart, editor of Mortgage Magazine, said the figures were just the tip of the iceberg: "Many lenders were reluctant to discuss their arrears policies and some even denied charging a penal rate when first questioned."

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FAMILY MONEY

When no will means no way

By Jon Ashworth

For more than a year, a semi-detached house in Cambridge has been standing empty, stripped of its furniture and with the garden slowly falling into disrepair. It has five bedrooms and a price tag of £80,000, but none of the local estate agents carry it in their windows.

The owner of the house died without leaving a will. In its sorry state, the property stands as a warning to the thousands of people who have not yet made a will to do so.

When someone dies intestate, the estate is question usually passes to one of a handful of close relatives. But as a couple in West Sussex found to their dismay, being a second cousin is not enough.

When their cousin died more than a year ago, they took it for granted that the Cambridge home would be passed down within the family. It came as more than a shock to discover that because the owner was a second cousin with no close relatives, the house would pass to the State.

"We always thought that she and my wife were first cousins, and that my wife would automatically inherit the property," said the retired clerical worker.

He added: "But when the solicitor drew up the family tree, we found there was no



claim. Now we are resigned to the fact that we have lost an estate worth as much as £80,000."

He had hoped that the property could be sold for the benefit of his sister-in-law, who had nursed her cousin through ill-health for some years. She in turn has written to the Treasury Solicitor, who deals with such cases, putting

her case for compensation. The brother-in-law said: "It is still far from complete, and we have pursued the case through our solicitor for some time. Aside from the legal costs, we have had to look after our cousin's 18-year-old cat, and have run up large vet bills. We hope to at least get our expenses back."

Meanwhile, the house

stands vacant, with little sign of an early sale. The brother-in-law added: "The Treasury Solicitor's office has said it wants to value the property, but nothing has been done so far. My sister-in-law goes over to look at it once a month, but the neighbours are unhappy at having it empty for so long."

A report on intestacy published by the Law Commis-

sioner last year found only a third of the people surveyed had made a will, although another 40 per cent said they intended to do so. The rest had no plans to make one.

Wills were most likely to have been made by the wealthy and older age groups.

The warning comes too late for the couple in West Sussex, who can only hope that the State is sympathetic. The Treasury Solicitor's department may be far more open to reason than it might at first seem from the intestacy rules.

Last year, the department dealt with nearly 2,500 similar cases.

A spokeswoman said: "We make enormous efforts to find relatives and often they turn up. But there are still far too many people coming to us. 'Everyone ought to make a will - having a step-relative or an in-law is not sufficient to inherit. It must be a legal blood relative.'"

Despite this, she added, the department is prepared to look at any case on its merits. "What people are not aware of is that if an estate comes to us we do have the power to make *ex gratia* payments. These could be made to a kind neighbour, who looked after an invalid."

Last year, the department paid out £2.75 million in this way. A further £80,000 was paid out in property.

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G T U N I T M A N A G E R S L T D

Golden Future to pay 10% a month

By Lindsay Cook

Golden Future, a five-year investment plan which will pay 10 per cent interest on a monthly basis, was launched this week by Henderson Financial Management and NDF Administration.

It will initially put 35 per cent of the investment in an account at the Nationwide Anglia, which is currently paying 9.62 per cent interest. The remainder will buy units in the Henderson Income and Growth Trust, which has a yield of 4.58 per cent.

Mr Robin Berrill, the managing director of Henderson Unit Trust Management, said that with these returns,

the unit trust will have to grow by 10 per cent a year if investors are to get their initial lump sum back at the end of five years. If this is not achieved, investors will receive part of their original capital in the monthly payments.

Mr Berrill said: "At the end of the day, you get nothing for nothing. It is wrong to think you can get a good return without risking something."

The plan, which is aimed at the over 50s, requires a minimum investment of £10,000 and is intended to run for at least five years, although it can be extended. The monthly income will automatically be paid into the investor's bank or building society account.

A monitoring service will assess the performance of the unit trust at half-yearly intervals and if it reaches pre-set targets, a number of the units will be cashed in and the money transferred to the building society account. Mr Berrill said if there was "an absolute disaster" and the level of capital was being seriously eroded, investors would be given the choice of continuing to receive the same monthly payments or having them reduced and the capital preserved.

There is an initial charge of 5.75 per cent - 0.5 per cent higher than Henderson's usual unit trust charge.

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The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

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FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth reports on a suspension by SIB

Dumenil investors £33m rescue deal



No comment: Christopher Burrows, consultant to Dumenil

LETTERS

Capital gains tax exemption and letting one's home

From Mr W D Rutter
Sir, I understand that a sole residence may be let in whole or in part for no more than three years without incurring any liability, even proportionate, for capital gains tax when the house is sold. I also understand this concession is separate from, and in addition to, the other exemptions resulting from employment away from home and the relief granted on the two years of ownership immediately prior to sale.

Would you please confirm this?
W D RUTTER
Arterbury Road
London SW20

You are quite right in your analysis. Certain periods of non-occupation of a principal residence are ignored and treated as if they were periods of occupation, provided the house is occupied as the individual's only or main residence at some time before and after the following:

● A single period of absence up to three years, or shorter periods not over three years in total. No further conditions attach to this exemption. The individual may be abroad or in the UK, working or not.

● Any period of absence in which the individual is throughout in an employment, all the duties of which, are performed overseas. This can include more than one overseas employment and leave periods. An individual can work overseas for 10 years and, provided he returns to living in the house for a period afterwards, the gain on its sale will be exempt.

● Absence up to a maximum of four years, continuous or in separate periods totalling up to four years during which an individual is prevented from living in the house because of his place of work (not necessarily overseas) or because his employer requires him to live elsewhere. These periods are not mutually exclusive. Any absence must be followed by a period, albeit short, when the individual occupies the house as his sole or main residence.

● Published replies marked with the triangle logo are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with The Times. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Investors in Dumenil, the troubled unit trust group which had its dealings suspended after pricing errors were discovered last November, stand to get all their money back under a rescue package proposed this week.

The package, if approved, will see at least £33 million returned to the 12,000 investors concerned. This week, the company said it was its "intention" that unit holders would receive the value of units at the suspension date along with any net gains on the units made by February 6.

It suggested that there were "other options" which might possibly be open to unit holders, but would not say what they were. The company hopes to write to all unit holders before February 6. Dumenil said an independent arbitrator would be used to value the net gains on the group's 11 funds and that investors who had seen the value of their units decline by February 6 would actually be better off, since gains and losses would be averaged out.

Mr Christopher Burrows, former deputy managing director of Henderson Unit Trust Management, was appointed consultant to Dumenil last summer following a difficult trading period. He was said to be locked in negotiations on the company's future this week and not available for comment.

Trading in Dumenil funds was suspended on November 6 following the discovery of pricing errors in cancellation, bid and offer prices for units.

The Securities and Investments Board went on to issue a statutory notice, extending the suspension of dealings until February 5.

The action, taken under section 91 of the Financial Services Act 1986, was made to give the managers and trustees more time to resolve underlying pricing difficulties. This was the first time SIB had used its powers in this way. Touche Ross, the accountant appointed to investigate the reason for the pricing difficulties, has not yet completed its inquiries.

Even if the present rescue package is approved, Dumenil's options remain far from clear. A quick sale of the shell funds to one or more rival bidders would be one alternative. A rival group, Royal Unit Trust Managers, was said to be on the verge of bidding for Dumenil's UK-authorized funds shortly before dealings were suspended. This was never confirmed.

Whatever the outcome, the Dumenil episode will not be welcomed by an industry which is fighting an uphill battle to attract new investors. "We hope very much that this is a one-off incident," said Mr Tony Smith, chief executive of the Unit Trust Association. "It is the first time something like this has occurred in 60 years and with 150 management groups."

A UTA spokesman added it was "regrettable" that the Dumenil unit holders had been locked in to their investments for such a long period. "The point is they will not have lost and there are far more safeguards on unit trust investment than on many other investment products. Until we know the final settlement, it is difficult to comment further."

Gartmore Fund Managers has introduced a free re-investment service for Dumenil investors and is giving unit holders the choice of reinvesting in up to 27 unit trusts free of the usual 5 per cent front end charge.

"This is not a deal we have struck with Dumenil," said Mr Peter Pearson Lund, the managing director, "but simply an initiative we have taken based on reports in the press."

Information is available on Freephone 0800 289 336. Investors who were to take up the offer would not be exempted from the annual management charges on Gartmore funds, which range from 1 to 1.5 per cent. "The unhappy Dumenil situation was not of their making and they deserve a helping hand," said Mr Pearson Lund. Gartmore is also offering investors free investment counselling on the group's range of unit trusts. Tel They can contact the Gartmore Investor Services department on during office hours, or leave a message.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25% 25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
BANKS									
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day				
Fixed Term Deposits									
Barclays	11.00	11.00	8.35	25,000-50,000	1 mth	01-828 1587			
Bank of England	11.75	11.75	8.40	25,000-50,000	6 mth	01-828 1587			
Lloyds	10.50	10.50	8.50	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Branch			
Midland	10.50	10.50	8.45	10,000-no max	1 mth	01-250 2905			
NatWest	10.50	10.50	8.50	10,000-no max	6 mth	01-250 2905			
NatWest	10.75	10.75	8.50	10,000-24,000	1 mth	01-726 1000			
NatWest	10.75	10.75	8.50	10,000-24,000	6 mth	01-726 1000			

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS									
Bank of Scotland NAC	10.84	11.18	8.54	2,500	none	031-442 7777			
Co-operative	9.50	9.84	7.87	1,500	none	0604 252881			
Co-operative	7.10	7.20	5.84	No limit	none	01 828 6543			
Co-operative	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000	none	01 866 2076			
Lloyds	7.00	7.20	5.75	500	none	01 825 3336			
NatWest	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,000	none	01 250 2905			
NatWest	9.00	9.31	7.45	500	none	01-374 3374			
NatWest	9.75	10.11	8.09	2,500	none	031-656 8555			
NatWest	8.00	8.00	7.20	2,000	none	01-800 8000			

BUILDING SOCIETIES									
Ordinary Share	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none				
Best buy - largest socs:									
Bank of England	6.50	6.50	5.52	1 mth	none				
Bank of England	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 mth					
Bank of England	10.41	10.41	8.32	500 mth					
Bank of England	11.00	11.00	8.80	20,000 mth					
Best buy - all socs:									
Bank of England	10.41	10.41	8.32	3,000 mth	none				
Bank of England	11.10	11.10	8.25	3,000 mth	30 day				
Bank of England	11.04	11.04	8.35	500 mth	30 day				
Bank of England	11.20	11.20	8.35	1,000 mth	30 day				
Bank of England	10.25	10.25	8.40	250 mth	6 mth				
Cash/Cheque Accounts:									
Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 mth	rates rise				
Card Cash	5.80	5.80	5.52	500 mth	with larger				
Card Cash	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 mth	balances				

NATIONAL SAVINGS									
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.00	3.00	5-10,000	5 day	041-648-4555			
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	7.00	25,000	1 mth	041-648-4555			
Income Bond	12.50	12.50	7.50	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0293 89151			
Deposit Bond	12.50	12.50	7.50	500	5 mth	041-648-4555			
With Income Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-100	5 day	031-588-8800			
With Income Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200	14 day	031-588-8800			
General	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-no max	5 yrs	041-648-4555			
Extensive Estate	12.00	12.00	7.25						

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS									
American Life	12.00	12.00	10.20	5,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from			
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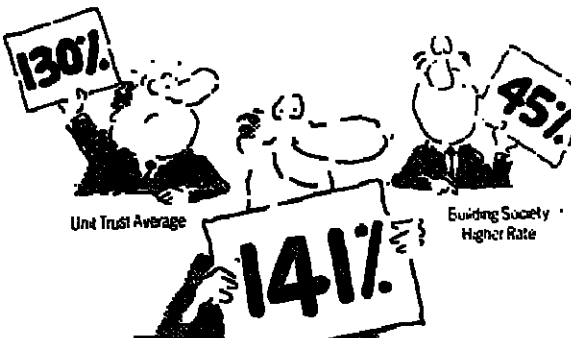
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By month	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Jan	0.438	0.398	0.303	0.234	0.188	0.150	0.070	
Feb	0.432	0.392	0.297	0.228	0.182	0.144	0.065	
Mar	0.426	0.386	0.291	0.222	0.176	0.138	0.058	
Apr	0.420	0.380	0.285	0.216	0.170	0.132	0.053	
May	0.414	0.374	0.280	0.210	0.164	0.126	0.048	
Jun	0.408	0.368	0.275	0.204	0.158	0.120	0.043	
Jul	0.402	0.362	0.270	0.198	0.152	0.114	0.039	
Aug	0.396	0.356	0.265	0.192	0.146	0.108	0.036	
Sep	0.390	0.350	0.260	0.186	0.140	0.102	0.033	
Oct	0.384	0.344	0.255	0.180	0.134	0.096	0.031	
Nov	0.378	0.338	0.250	0.174	0.128	0.090	0.028	
Dec	0.372	0.332	0.245	0.168	0.122	0.084	0.025	

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The minimum investment is £2,000, and there is a 5 per cent initial charge. The three directors, including Mr McCormick and Mr Hodgeson,

Gold aside, the new BES season has got off to a slow but steady start. Five BES issues have been oversubscribed in the last month, but most investors are likely to hold

Mr Spiers said: "All the indications are that the next three months will see about £150 million raised. There are at least another 20 assured tenancies in the pipeline, and investors should wait to see what's available before committing themselves."

The popular Airways Homes issue closed last month after taking in more than £5 million, making it the most successful BES issue of the year so far. Airways Homes II is due to be launched next week.

Mr Peter Lilley, Treasury financial secretary, said: "We are responding to requests from employers for employees who do not pay the maximum contribution already."

Lindsay Cook

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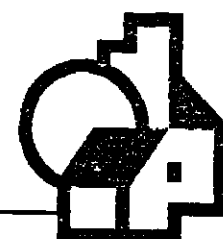
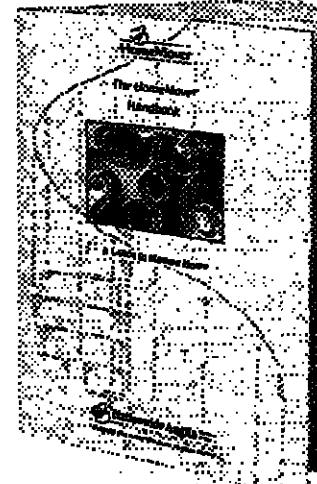
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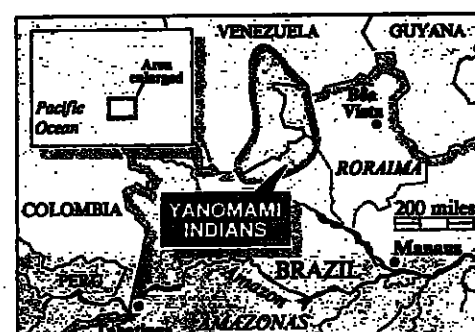
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- COOK: CHINESE NEW YEAR RECIPES
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- EATING OUT: MORE FROM McCOY'S
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SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1990

A tribe dying in the gold rush

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GERHARD HUMER / JULIO ETCHEART



Ceremony still plays a big part in the village life of the Yanomami communities, but encroaching on their ancient forest home in recent years have been the machinery of the gold diggers and the ravaging fire of the land clearers

'We're not killing off the Indians; we think it bad luck even to kill a snake'

MINERS' UNION LEADER



It started in Tabatinga airport. "You're out of luck; completely booked, no cancellations, no chance," the woman at the airline desk said of the next morning's flight to Manaus. But she chirped up when I said I felt lucky and knew I was going to get on that plane even if it meant sitting in an air stewardess's lap.

Aware that my final destination was Boa Vista, she joked: "You feel lucky, eh? Maybe you've got a touch of gold fever. Maybe you'll strike it rich. Or maybe the Indians will kill you."

She advised me to come back next day when the airport opened at 6am - five hours before the Manaus flight - and put my name on stand-by. There was much chattering about the dangers of certain tropical diseases, particularly *febre do ouro* (gold fever), and being in a hurry, as in the *corrida do ouro* (gold rush).

Next morning, the Varig airline counter clerk laughed as she said, "You really are lucky," with 10 minutes to spare, a seat on the Manaus flight became vacant.

So began a journey of more than 1,400 miles across the Brazilian Amazon: first eastwards to Manaus, capital of the State of Amazonas, the largest in Brazil, then north to Boa Vista, capital of Roraima, a Portugal-size state which borders Venezuela and Guyana. Roraima takes its name from a mountain near the Venezuelan frontier which inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*. Yet it does not require Sherlock Holmes to detect that murder most foul - in short, genocide - is afoot here. There had been reports of Yanomami Indian children being shot out of

Drawn by the discovery of gold, a vast army of prospectors is bringing death and disease to the Yanomami Indians of the Amazonian forests. Some call it genocide. Geoffrey Matthews reports



the trees and adults killed by armed gold prospectors. The Brazilian government had been accused of genocide for failing to protect the Indians from the despoliation of their homeland, where they live as primitive hunter-gatherers.

For the centre of a region being likened to the Klondike, Boa Vista turned out to be a sprawling, attractive, peaceful city of 150,000, about half of Roraima's population. In the centre stands a huge statue of the legendary figure who made Boa Vista rich - the garimpeiro (gold prospector). Roraima has always been famed for

that the territory belongs to the Yanomami, South America's largest tribe of forest Indians, whose survival is now threatened.

The gold rush has sparked talk of an Indian war. However, while some have died in skirmishes of unequal combat between the firepower of the garimpeiros' rifles and the arrows from the Yanomami's bows, a greater threat to the Indians is the arrival of white man's diseases such as malaria. Politically, the whole conflict is a complex affair involving the national government in Brasilia, the federal government in Boa Vista, various garimpeiro and indigenous groups and, above all, the Church in Roraima's capital.



My arrival in Boa Vista coincided with the supposed start of a police operation to move the prospectors out of areas immediately

adjacent to Yanomami settlements. The exercise, scheduled to take at least two months, was dubbed "Operação Canaimé". Its name seemed to put the authorities firmly on the side of the Yanomami, since Canaimé is an Indian word for a killer who stalks by night, rather as the tribe views the marauding garimpeiros who invaded in broad daylight.

The operation appeared to be either an attempt at a compromise solution or a cynical window-dressing political exercise by the state governor, Romero Jucá, but it was quickly condemned by the tribal head, Davi Yanomami, and by the Bishop of Boa Vista, Monsignor Aldo Mongiano, who both insist that the prospectors must leave the Indian territory or the Indians will indeed suffer.

Continued overleaf

IF YOU IGNORE THEIR PROBLEMS THEY'LL DISAPPEAR.



The Yanomami Indians have lived in the Brazilian rainforest for over ten thousand years.

Now, illicit gold mining is poisoning their rivers with mercury. Rainforest is being turned into malarial swampland. Tuberculosis is rife.

Their children are dying, and it's not their fault.

Survival International has launched an emergency medical aid fund. You can help us to help the Yanomami tribe survive.

The money you send to Survival will go direct to the tribe, through a non-governmental, non-profit organisation. It will buy vital drugs, vaccines and medical care.

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THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



Town, gown and caricature

Let's face it, this week is going to be somewhat scrappy. I've never been round the world before, but you know what it is like when you get back from two weeks abroad — 100 letters to open, many with brown envelopes, a hysterical answering machine, delayed invitations for events on the day of return, pre-arranged engagements for that same day, a radio show the next morning, a stomach still hovering somewhere over White Plains, New York, and head buried in a sheepy liver.

From Sherrin's stand to the Grosvenor House Hotel to chair an awards ceremony, what a week. "Britain's leading house-buying magazine", and no fewer than 50 awards were presented to land-owners, developers, and the rest. The awards were presented to land-owners, developers, and the rest. The awards were presented to land-owners, developers, and the rest.

What was the occasion was not without its perils. I was firmly warned not to be rude to estate agents, to be sensitive people and to be polite. I was told by Chris that the awards were the best before. I was told by Chris that the awards were the best before. I was told by Chris that the awards were the best before.

Yes, this Friday I couldn't find any, unless the crease under the armpit of the professor's rumpled polo-neck constituted an N. Has any other Oxford don been immortalized by this great cartoonist? There is serious food for senior common room envy here. Osbert Lancaster and Max Beerbaum must have drawn a few earlier souls, but I write this column under the domination of John Minnion, who draws the witty caricatures which illustrate it. He judges its merit entirely by the number of drawables I drop.



I had thought to inspire him to a Hirschfeld pastiche of a contemporary Oxford figure — but what personalities are left in Oxford? Who would you recognize? Chancellor Roy Jenkins? Dame Iris Murdoch? Perhaps gown could be stretched to town to include a ballooning Captain Bob Maxwell or an investigating Inspector Morse.

I READ the five entries for this year's Whitbread Book of the Year over Christmas and under Capricorn. We had to choose a winner from the best novel, first novel, children's novel, book of poetry and biography. On Wednesday night our deliberations were revealed at the Brewery in Chiswell Street. Reports of acrimony over the preliminary choice of best novel made me apprehensive about the possibility of fisticuffs at the final. Apart from specialist judges held over from the heats, we were a crew as disparate as the competing books. Dr Mary Archer, Roy Hattersley, Janet Street Porter, Timothy Waterstone and I don't have much in common. We telephoned our favourites the day before and I arrived apologetic for my own choice. Richard Holmes's biography *Coleridge: Early Visions*. I need not have worried. The verdict was not unanimous but it was

overwhelming and Mr Holmes is £22,000 richer. The broadcast media do love these book fests. In the space of a few minutes I did *Newsnight*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Channel 4 Breakfast News* and *NBC* before being whisked off to Broadcasting House for Brian Matthews's *Round Midnight* with the winner. WILL THERE be any room for English plays in the theatre of the Nineties? In Britain and America, Václav Havel is bursting out all over. How long will it be before Armenia and Lithuania are flooding Shafesbury Avenue and the Great White Way at the expense of indigenous dramatists? So that you know what to expect, theatre in Armenia has always flourished despite massacres, pogroms, invasions and civil wars. In the 18th century a religious sect called the Mekhitharists specialized

in historical plays and comedies. In modern times the hit playwright was Ervand Orian (1869-1926). Perhaps the Royal Court are even now pouring over his *The Downy*, *Master Balthazar* or, most beckoning, *The Oriental Dentist*. The Lithuanians are going to pose a problem for the neon specialists on Shaftesbury Avenue. The best-known modern dramatists are V. Krėvė-Mickėvičius (1882-1954) and V. Putinas-Mykolaitis (1893-1967). The author whose name would really spark a power cut is N. Peckanskaitė-Satrigos Ragana (1878-1930). Fortunately he wrote short stories and novels and was probably the only short story writer whose name was often longer than his actual tales.

I RECEIVED several answers to Peter O'Toole's two "sport 'n' the-are" questions. The winner and single correct entry was the first I opened. The actor who gained a wartime Oxford Blue against a Steele-Bodger XV was Richard Burton; and the one who played for the British Fleet against the Swedish police in the early 1950s was O'Toole himself. Joanna Aitken of Upper Norwood is the erudite winner and already has her two tickets for *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*. She is determined to take her 12-year-old son to the matinee on February 17, despite my warnings.

O'Toole's memory of Michael MacLiammóir's labels for the Gate and the Abbey ("Sodom and Begorrah") has stirred a small controversy. A reader, B. R. Folliot, writes to say that the phrase was minted not by MacLiammóir but by Lionel Hale.

Then I opened Brian Inglis's new autobiography, *Downstar*, to find the taunt ascribed to Jimmy Montgomery, the late Irish film censor (who called his own job "a sinuous watching californication"). The next evening I found myself settled behind Mrs Herbert Kretzmer's excellent beef and pickle walnut casserole in their new home in Chelsea. Suddenly I heard Genevieve Lyons, the Irish actress and writer, talking of MacLiammóir to Denholm Elliott.

I burst in with my question about the quote. "Oh," she dismissed me airily, "that was Seamus Kelly." Mr Kelly was for a long time the dramatic critic of *The Irish Times*. To whom shall I ascribe it when I get to M in my anthology of theatre anecdotes? Any other candidates?

THE LINES between here and Deal have been humming as my man there and I try to decide how many Scottish judges it takes to change a light bulb. We do not think that 10 (one to change it and nine to do the Gay Gordons) is good enough.

FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were John McEnroe, fading tennis superstar and professional iconoclast, I would be relaxing in my Malibu home, a different man away from the pressures of the centre court spotlight. Gazing out over the ocean, I would start to contemplate my historic disqualification from the Australian Open this week. A vague and alien notion of disgrace, devastating in its implications, would suddenly cross my mind. "Forget it," I would say to myself, symbolically pulling my peaked cap down over my eyes. "they're the losers."

Dozing off under the warm midday sun, I would soon be racked by a terrifying nightmare. In my dream I would be playing tennis against my two adored little boys. "Kevin," I would say to the elder, "that was a great serve, son. But I'm afraid it was slightly out."

"You cannot be serious," the toddler would scream, his sweet little face horribly contorted with rage. "This is the pits of the earth and you're nothing but an incompetent fool."

"Yes," my darling baby Sean would join in, smashing his junior tennis racket into splinters on the ground. "All those fathers to choose from and we get a moron like you."

I would wake with a shudder, the cold fingers of fear insistently prodding me in the chest. "My goodness," I would think to myself, "how on earth could mere infants develop that sort of behaviour?" Then and only then would the dollar finally drop.

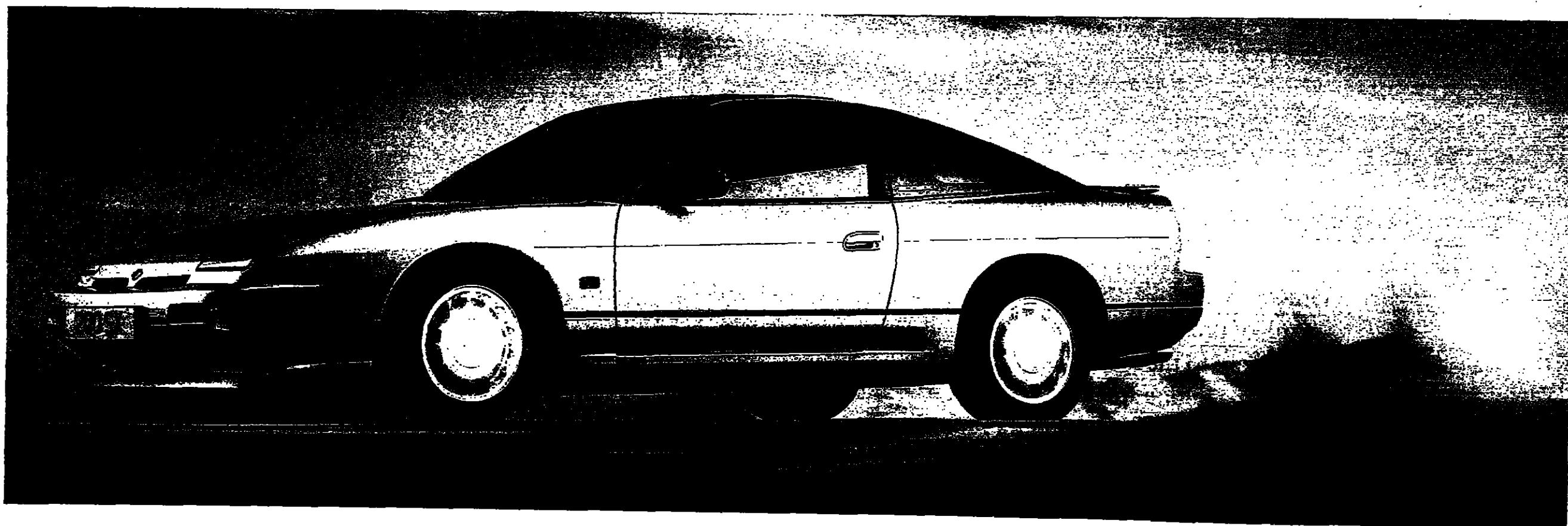
Immediately I would set about destroying every video of myself at my four-letter abusive worst. Belatedly I would realize that, if I want to be remembered as a truly great sports star, I must in future leave my childish tantrums in the locker room. After a few sessions with the sports psychologist, I would endeavour to harness my nervous energy more constructively.

Then I would take a leaf from the good book of my fellow American tennis player David Wheaton, currently ranked 46 in the world, and a born-again Christian. I would learn about Job, how patiently he bore his Old Testament equivalent of monstrous line calls, and how his demeanour eventually earned him top seed status in the heavenly rankings. With avid interest I would read the Sermon on the Mount. I would discover that the meek are blessed and shall inherit the earth, which presumably includes the occasional men's singles title. For the first time in my life I would understand the justice of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Refreshed and restored by my new philosophy, I would return to the international tennis circuit a reformed character. No longer marred by my usual shenanigans, my naturally brilliant game would improve out of all recognition. Once again I would make it to the final at Wimbledon, pitted this time against the mighty Boris Becker. "Excuse me, sir," I would say to the umpire over a disputed match-point. "You are probably right, of course. But I am almost certain that Mr Becker's ball was in."

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A CHILDHOOD: COLIN WELLAND

'I still miss my father. He was the great confidant, the man who talked the most sense'

Colin Welland isn't his real name. He was born Colin Williams but had to change that early in his acting career when he discovered that another Colin Williams had already registered that name with Equity. The rivers of England came up with Welland.

Name apart, Colin Welland is probably much the same person as the boy who left Newton-le-Willows in south Lancashire for acting in television, writing movies, an Oscar and not very long ago acting again at the National Theatre. He still has the same accent, the same friends and the same wife. So many don't. And his four children are all called Williams.

Last week a version of his latest screenplay to be filmed, *A Dry White Season*, was released in Britain after a typical Hollywood quickstep about credits between Welland and the director Euzhan Palcy. In brief, he wrote it first (adapted from the book by André Brink), Palcy rewrote it following a change of producer, and the Writers' Guild of America apportioned the writing credit equally.

Not invited to the filming or the launching (he didn't even know the film was being made until it was in production in Zimbabwe) he found watching it an eerie experience. He could recognize much of the structure of the film (the writer's most important job) and the shape of scenes, but not much of the dialogue.

Some writers might have had their hair turn white over such a situation, but not Welland. He remains the philosophical Lancastrian. Screenwriting, as he well knows, is a long-distance race.

He was born in Liverpool in 1934 where his father was a crane driver on the docks. He had one older sister, Beryl, and his mother worked for a time in a hospital. Pre-war memories are dull: the blitz was so vivid.

"I was never frightened by the bombing, which was amazing because houses were being annihilated around us all the time," he says. "The only apprehension I had was looking for paratroopers because we were told we were in imminent danger of invasion."

In the garden his father built an



Anderson Shelter, with a concrete floor, electric lights, bunks, a radio and sandbags by the door to stop the blast. Every night during May 1941 the family slept in the shelter as Liverpool was bombed.

"I can hear the planes now. You could tell the German ones because they had different sound-

stand anywhere, because they were used to squatting underground. These were the days before pit-head baths so they were all black, with those little pink mouths and pink eyes, their helmets on the back of their heads and their cloths.

"Kids had clogs, too. I wanted some because you could slide in the playground and kick sparks, but my mother wouldn't let me have any because she thought they were common."

He was always very close to his father from whom he inherited his allegiance to the Labour Party ("they were the milk of our family, Labour politics") and whom he now sees as "a great pioneer type of bloke who was stuck in a council house in Newton-le-Willows."

"He was a restless man who always had ambitions which were regarded as ridiculous for an ordinary working man in Lancashire. But I always believed in him."

"At one point he wanted to open a laundrette before they became known here and everybody laughed at him and said nobody would want to wash their smalls in public, so he couldn't get any financial support."

"His most ambitious project was his flying bike. He was fascinated by the idea of man-powered flight and brought home two pigeons one day and measured their wing expanse in relation to their body weight. Then he constructed a flying machine out of metal and had me suspended in our wash-house peddling like hell on a spring weighing machine, with great big propellers going around on either side of me, to see how much weight loss I could manage."

"But it was only theory. He never had the necessary light-weight materials and it didn't fly. Of course when I told the kids at school that my dad had a flying bike it became totally a subject of ridicule which still follows me to this day. I only wish he could have lived to see that fellow in America flying a mile, peddling away, because it was his idea, too."

Holidays were largely spent touring North Wales on another bike, a tandem, with both parents peddling while the two children would squeeze into a sidecar.

by Ray Connolly

ing engines. It was a thrill for us. We used to have the classroom in our front room because we didn't go to school during that period.

"Every morning we'd get up and see whose house had gone. You'd pay sixpence to go and look at the remains and the crater. That was a way of giving to tide over the people who'd been bombed out. At school they raffled a banana for a Spitfire. I didn't know what a banana was until then."

In 1941 the family moved to Newton-le-Willows, near Warrington, when his father began work at the American air base at Burtonwood, inspecting parts of planes shipped in crates for assembling in Britain. Although only 18 miles from Liverpool, his new home was vastly different in culture as well as accent.

"It was a small town, a close-knit community where everyone knew everybody else. We even had our own local heroes."

It was in Newton-le-Willows that he met coal miners for the first time. "They were entirely their own entity. Golborne, where I went to school, was a mining village and the miners used to squat at the bus stop. They'd never



Colin Welland and, left, as a child: "We weren't poor. We were an average family in that we had as much or as little money as everyone else"

"We weren't poor. We were an average family in that we had as much or as little money as everyone around us. There was only one Christmas when I wanted a low-slung, flashy racing bike like some of my friends whose parents might have a little shop or something. And I remember my dad produced his bike that he'd done up for me - taken it to pieces and re-assembled with low handle bars."

"It wasn't the same, but even at that age when you're so self-centred I was sensitive to the effort he had put into it, and was very grateful."

If there were many difficult moments they were nearly always kept from the children, although after the war when his father had gone down to Cambridge looking for work he saw his mother sell her engagement ring. "That was very, very traumatic, even for me, because she had a little weep. So obviously we were short of money at that stage."

The closeness of his parents he took for granted, and only on his mother's death a few years ago did the realization of his father's affection for her fully strike him.

"Among my mother's effects were little cards and telegrams that my dad had sent her over the years, the little extra poem or something unusual, some thought here and there, which you only go to the trouble for with somebody you love."

"He was very protective to-

Photograph by Graham Wood

wards her because she was an epileptic and I remember hearing the terrible noises of my mother having an early morning fit. It was very frightening, although, of course, we got used to seeing it. But it was always my dad who would be there first, and who would get the cushion and put her on her side."

Like most families in those days outside entertainment meant the cinema, usually three times a week. "This was pre-television, and everybody went on Saturday night, whole families booking the place up."

As a child he had been very impressed by the ghost of Cathy in *Wuthering Heights* coming to the window, but heroic films like *The Four Feathers* were to affect him more deeply.

Obviously never occurred to him then that people actually wrote movies, but when it came to his turn he found himself delving back into his reservoir of memories. For *Chariots of Fire* he drew largely on his own love of running and sport as a schoolboy, while his screenplay for *Yanks* was his memory of the Americans invading his town during the war.

"Well, they didn't invade Newton-le-Willows so much, although they did make the cricket club a place where no respectable person ever went. But Warrington was just like Dodge City. I mean

we used to go to the Royal Court Theatre every Friday night and coming back to the bus

was terrifying... they were all drunk, they had knives... all sorts...

"A lot of Americans were very kind to us, of course. But they were foreign, really foreign. I'll never forget a column of soldiers marching from the station to the base and they all had yellow faces - I suppose because they were the children of the Depression and had been undernourished. And my pal's mother looked out and saw these yellow faces and said: 'They're all bloody Chinese.'"

At school Welland was no all rounder. Good at the arts, he couldn't be bothered to do the necessary homework for languages, and maths and science were a closed book.

At home there was no pressure on him to work and the mixed grammar school he attended, with its rugby, school magazine and drama was, if anything, too enjoyable.

Practicality and security were the bywords for his parents' generation but good teaching had shown him the English language and he was good at art. He wanted to be either a painter or an actor. The missing essentials of Latin and maths made university out of the question, so at 18 he was called

up into the Army - "the most abhorrent society I've ever had the misfortune to be placed amongst. I hated every minute of it."

"This was the one instance in my life when my upbringing worked against me. I'd been taught to be independent, to have opinions, to consider other people's points of view, to always respect another individual's dignity - all the things that make life tolerable, pleasant and creative. And at 18 I was shoved into something where the only thing that mattered was the stripe on someone's arm."

Two years later, not ready yet to take the enormous leap and take up acting professionally, he went to a teachers' training college. In his first year there, when he was 20, his father died from cancer. Two weeks later his sister, now 24, died from a completely different illness.

"It was a terribly painful way to grow up. My mother was devastated but because I was away at college the local people from the estate came to the rescue and looked after her for me. From that point on I had to take on the role of an adult because that was all that was left for me."

"I still miss my father. I've missed him throughout life as the great power, the great confidant and the man who talked the most sense. He was always there. He provided the environment that was necessary for me to become myself."

'Stories that we kill Indians are slander'

Continued from previous page
genocide. A few days earlier, Mongiano's unequivocal stance had led to a violent demonstration by goldminers at the bishop's house, next to the cathedral. There were cries that "his head must roll", and threatened death threats. (Similar threats would no doubt have greeted Sting if he had travelled to Boa Vista, as he had planned, after pleading the Indians' cause with President José Sarney in Brasília. But the rock star prudently cancelled his trip.) The bishop left town.

Both, in Boa Vista's eyes, are interfering foreigners. For this is one city in the world that lives by the gold standard.

In the centre there is Gold Street, with signs declaring: "We buy and sell gold". Airline book-ings, hotel bills and other business is negotiated in gold, rather than the constantly devalued new and old cruzados.

In February 1989, a presidential decree demarcated the Yanomami territory into 19 separate and distinct areas - in effect, islands in an ocean over which they had always reigned in its entirety - which represent less than 30 per cent of their traditional land.

Last September, five of their *tuchaus* (chiefs) went to Brasília to protest about the unconstitutional nature of the decree and that even the demarcated zones were being violated by gold lust. They were received politely by the president of the Supreme Court and Congressmen, but returned home muttering bitterly about forked tongues.

"Operaio Canaima" is theoretically designed to clear the gold diggers out of these areas. Although impossible to monitor, it was clearly not being executed with much vigour. Flies flying supplies to the prospectors out of Boa Vista can now do so only on scheduled flights to outposts like Capixaba, outside the demarcated zones. But the area involved covers nearly nine million acres, and who knows where such pilots fly once out of sight in the clouds above the forests?

Clearly, the problem will still be unresolved when, on March 15, Sarney is succeeded by President-elect Fernando Collor de Melo, whose stated priority is to tackle the country's disastrous economy. Likewise, in Boa Vista, Roraima's governor and business leaders forecast that the total closure of the gold fields would trigger civil disorder.

Against such pressures, no one was betting a gram of gold on the survival of a few thousand Indians.

Roraima, formerly a federal territory, gained statehood only a year ago. It now proudly styles itself "the new gold state". Clearly, gold has been good for Boa Vista. Even in its cheerful working-class districts there is no evidence of the appalling poverty that afflicts urban Latin America.

Graffiti has appeared in Boa Vista - Viva Yanomami and SOS Yanomami! But my impression is that nobody here really gives a damn about the Yanomami, who are as foreign to Boa Vista as its Italian bishop and Sting.

Reiterating the bishop's position, one of his Italian aides, Father Piccoli Franco, dressed in a tropical shirt, was expansive and eloquent: "The Church is not against the garimpeiros; they are good people, poor, desperate, and exploited too. But the Indians' very existence is in danger and they have no voice; no one to articulate their cause. The Church is defending the defenceless against powerful commercial interests - the multinational companies." He rubbed the fingers and thumb of one hand to underline the latter point.

Estimates vary about the exact number of Indians. Church surveys, he said, indicated a population of 19,000, roughly split on either side of the Venezuelan/Brazilian border.



Hunter's hawk: a Yanomami with his supper. But there are fears that rivers are being poisoned

Hercildo Gomes Cidade, Coöperar's vice-president. Stories that the miners had murdered Indians were slander, he said. "In the bush, a garimpeiro considers it bad luck even to kill a snake. The garimpeiros have given the Indians medical care, food and clothing."

Like a seasoned trade union lawyer, he then moved on to refute the next charge against his members. "They say we are doing damage to the environment. Another lie. The garimpeiro is a manual worker; he has no heavy machinery. He works a plot 10 metres square, and one to four metres deep. When he has extracted all the gold, he moves on and quickly the forest reasserts itself."

Nor, he said, were the prospectors selling liquor to the Indians. "The Yanomami have their own booze - caxiri, made from fermenting potato; two or three tots of that stuff and, friend, you're going to have one big headache."

But on one point Coöperar seemed to concur with the Church. "The multinationals want us out so that they can take over, and if they do their tractors and excavators will really damage the environment and the Indians."

There were no Yanomami in Boa Vista itself, but at a pitiful Indian hospital two miles out of town Indian patients lay in hammocks slung from the central pillar of

huts built as in their natural habitat. The hospital is run by the National Indian Institute and, as with similar organizations in Latin America, it is short of government funding. Many were suffering from malaria and other diseases which have developed since the garimpeiros invaded their lands: hepatitis, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, various sexually transmitted infections, and digestive maladies caused by food previously unknown to them, and fish poisoned by mercury used by the miners which has polluted their rivers.

They looked a defeated people stripped of their dignity and self-respect. This is the price the Yanomami are paying for the 35,000 ounces of gold currently coming out of Roraima each month. Suddenly propelled into the limelight, they shy away from Press cameras, believing that each shot robs them a little more of their souls. Those strong enough vanish silently into the bush.

The hospital has come to resemble a zoo where humans gaze on humans. Feeling ashamed, I left within minutes and headed for Boa Vista's airport to fly out to the tribal lands.

Like the gold diggers, the gold dealers and the traders in

mining equipment and supplies, gang-bro young pilots have converged on Boa Vista to claim their stake in the gold rush. They fly in and out with supplies and passengers, forever wise-cracking with their colleagues on their crackling radio networks. Such flights take 90 minutes, first over the savannah, then over the dense jungles of the rain forests.

There are an estimated 150 airstrips in the mining area, each carved out of the jungle by the garimpeiros' machetes and saws. They last between six months and a year before they are abandoned, the prospectors having extracted all the available gold.

I flew into one such airstrip at Capixaba, a trading camp for about 1,000 miners, though only perhaps 30 were on hand. They were not all natural labourers. Ney Costa Pereira, aged 27, once a journalist in São Paulo, reported that economists, doctors, lawyers, and even the odd defrocked priest were to be found in the garimpeiros' ranks. The Brazilian can adapt to any situation, he joked.

Pereira and his friend, João Alberto Sousa Leite, a former lawyer, took me on a 20-minute walk through the sweltering jungle to a camp where gold was being mined in the same manual style of the original Alaskan gold rush.

That stroll seemed like an intensive work-out in a sauna. While the Amazon can appear

awesomely beautiful from the air, when you are locked in its monstrous embrace it is suffocatingly oppressive. Yet through this harsh, rotting terrain, back-packing garimpeiros walked for hours to more distant sites. Pereira was once lost for 26 days.

On the walk, the conversation was familiar. "We are friends of the Yanomami," Leite insisted. "But they are not really Brazilians. They travel in northern Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana. They know no frontiers."

As in Boa Vista, but in an extreme form, business in this community was conducted in gold. It had cost six kilos of gold to build the airstrip. The miners measured their earnings in gold, which on a monthly average ranged from 150,000 to 300,000 cruzados. This was certainly a lot compared with Brazil's minimum wage of 1,300 cruzados (about £26.50), or a schoolteacher's monthly take-home pay of 3,000. "But we've got hyperinflation around here. A beer in Boa Vista costs 20; here it is 180," Pereira said.

There was one woman at Capixaba. Voluptuous and good-humoured, she was described as the camp cook and was paid 30 grams in gold a month, while clearly disposed to offer other services to the men in return for gold.

Like the Yanomami, the garimpeiros feel persecuted. "Brazil is controlled by a rich oligarchy of a maximum of 5 per cent of the population, the rest of us are plebs," Pereira said. "This is a corrupt country where impunity reigns," Leite added.

The garimpeiros at Capixaba left a lasting impression: strong spirited men, adventurers all, seeking a lucky break to end a long unrelieved run of bad luck, which had started simply because they had been born in the wrong *barrios* of the big cities.

They will survive, but the same forecast cannot be made about the Indians. A whole chapter of the Brazilian constitution is devoted to the indigenous population, but ever since the gold rush began in 1987 they have seen their territories shrinking and rights and culture being eroded.

Like Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* they seem destined to become a lost tribe.

Confessions of a marked man

Thank You For Not Smoking, say the signs in most modern taxis, and I immediately feel guilty, wondering how on earth the driver knew that I was thinking of doing so; and those awful signs in corporate lavatories which say Now Wash Your Hands fill me with a strange paranoia, as if someone is watching my every action. (How many more of these signs will there be before the century is out? At the end of a restaurant meal, will one's receipt be returned with a discreet card reading Now Go Away?)

Similarly, signs which say This Shop Is Guarded By Closed Circuit Television find me behaving like an imbecile, staring up at each camera with an expression of exaggerated innocence and *bonhomie*, rather like those people in the crowd behind Brough Scott in the paddock on television.

I have only once, to my uncertain knowledge, been followed by a store detective, and I have never acted so guiltily in my life. Finding myself on the campus of Sussex University, I went into the university bookshop. Signs all over the shop announced that following a spate of shoplifting, anyone caught would be prosecuted - You Have Been Warned.

I had just moved from Henry James to John Cowper Powys when, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed that a middle-aged woman of nondescript appearance had echoed my movements, walking from Kingsley Amis to Ernest Hemingway.

To check that I was, indeed, being followed, I moved three bookcases along from John Cowper Powys to Anthony Trollope. At the very same instant, the middle-aged woman of nondescript appearance moved from Ernest Hemingway to R. K. Narayan.

The minute I knew I was a marked man, I found myself behaving in an irrational manner, performing figures of eight around the small bookshop, picking books up and skulking about with them only to place them back on different bookshelves seconds later, obsessed by my pursuer. As I left the shop empty-handed, I looked back over



CRAIG BROWN

my shoulder to see a look of total bewilderment on the poor woman's face.

On another occasion, two plain-clothes detectives left a message at my flat to call them at the Chelsea Police Station. After half an hour, I rang and asked for Detective Constable Walker.

"You were in Bath on the night of August 27?" he said. "Yes, that's right," I replied. "A young girl was murdered in Bath that night," he said. "Oh yes," I replied. "I remember seeing a headline about it on the news boards."

"But that's not the question, is it?" he replied. "The question is - did you do it?" He then asked me to drop round the next day.

Having put the receiver down, I started to tell everyone in my office of my new role as a murder suspect, but, even as I was telling them, I noticed a slightly quizzical look in their eyes, and I could almost hear them practising saying "He kept himself to himself" to inquisitive reporters.

Had I left my hotel after midnight? Had I visited the Beau Nash Club? Had I witnessed anything suspicious? Did I recognize the woman in this photograph? By the end of the short session, Detective Constable Walker was calling me "Craig", a friendly gesture which, in *The Sweeney*, invariably precedes an arrest. However, despite my twitching and stammering and all my sudden blushes, he let me go, a free man, telling me that, nationwide, the police were interviewing everyone who had registered in a Bath hotel that night. Perhaps, in future, it would be easiest if, in all public places - taxis, bookshops, hotels - there could simply be one sign, stating quite clearly, You Are Under Suspicion.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Why is it so difficult for the Marseillais to shake off their city's image as a haven for drug dealers and gangsters? Philip Jacobson reports



Before we consider how the media have so unforgivably distorted the image of Marseilles that outsiders now automatically link it with *The French Connection* and all that, here is a newsflash. The other day a 40-year-old Corsican, Jean-Baptiste Cruciani, known to the police as they say, was sitting in his car near the Vieux Port when two men arrived on a motor bike and shot him full of holes.

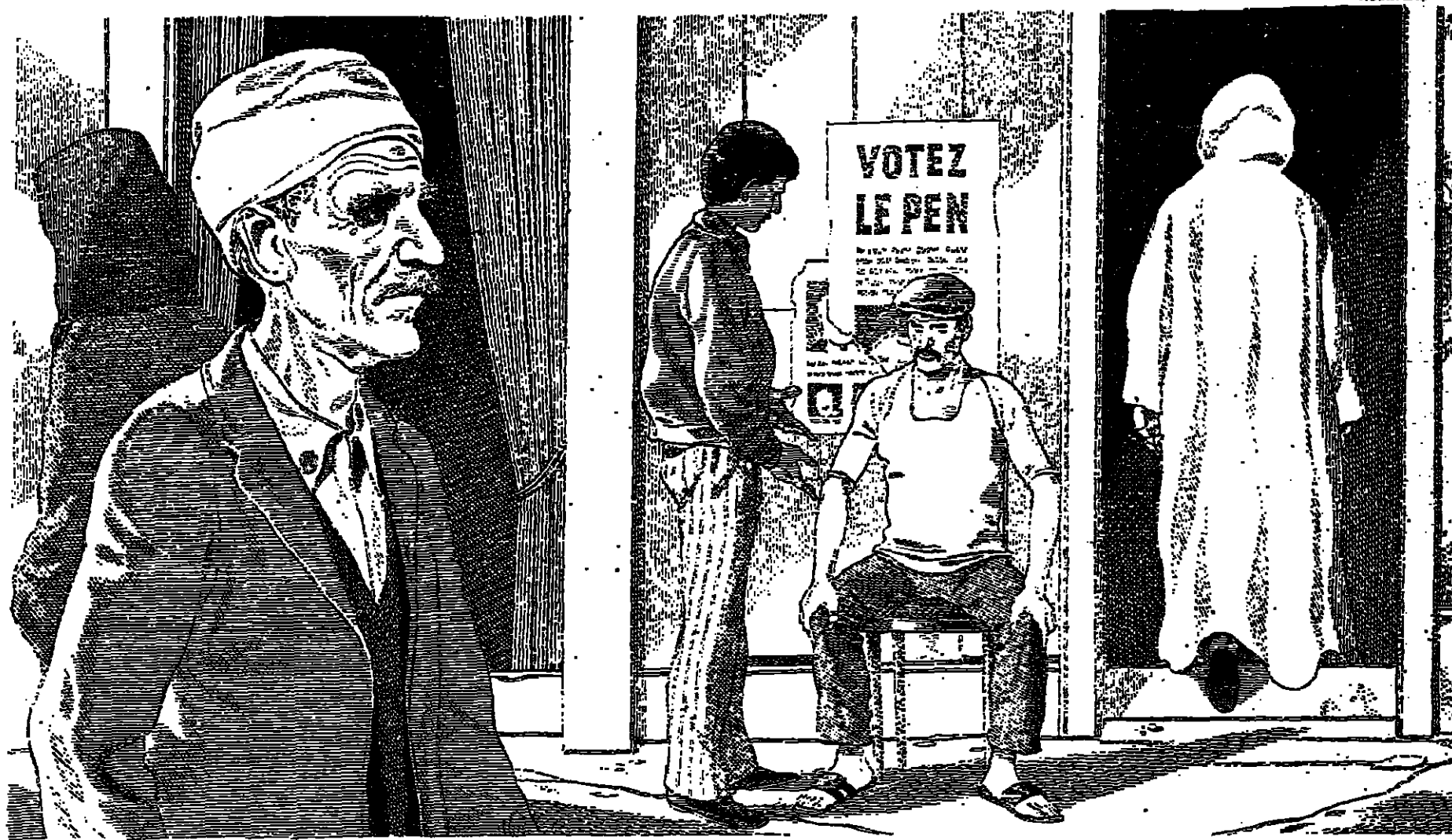
A week or so later three hooded gunmen put several bullets into Jean-André Simeoni, an Algerian who had a well-deserved reputation around Marseilles as an underground *gorille* and was no friend at all of the late Cruciani. Without jumping to conclusions, it is a near racing certainty that this was the first flurry of the 1990's crop of what is traditionally described here as *un règlement de comptes*—settling of scores, Marseilles-style.

There were at least 20 such killings last year, almost all connected with the unending struggle for a bigger and better share of what the Marseillais underworld calls *la limonade* the invigorating profits that flow from the drug trade, prostitution and protection rackets.

Yes, similar and sometimes worse things happen periodically in criminal circles in other big cities in France, not to mention the rest of the world. And yes, the Marseilles Connection is usually good for the sort of eye-catching headline that probably would not be applied to, say, Metz. For all we know the violent crime rate may not differ dramatically between the two places, but nobody is ever going to set a gangster film in the latter.

As a devoted fan of Marseilles—whose warm, welcoming and profoundly Mediterranean inhabitants could not differ more from the glacial *Parigots*—I can sympathize when exasperated locals wonder why visiting journalists rarely mention their city's vibrant cultural life, its architectural renaissance, the admirable determination not to be overwhelmed by serious economic, political and social problems.

And yet, precisely because they are so proud to be Marseillais, wars and all, they often contribute something to the myth of the big bad city. Perhaps it is just an elaborate front to bamboozle outsiders, but where else in France would a (respectable) businessman "selling" the solid virtues of his home town make a long detour to buy you lunch at the pizza parlour in which the owner, a



Reinforcing the connection

veteran member of the organized crime *milieu*, had been shot dead over one of his own tables?

That was the late Marius Laystrayoli, who knew a thing or two about gang warfare but had nevertheless confided to cronies that the *limonade* business was getting rather too rough for comfort. According to legend, which counts for a lot in Marseilles, after deciding to put *Chef Marius* up for sale he was heard to observe: "Maybe somebody will buy it before I do."

Voilà the essence of Marseilles, a hard-nosed wisecrack in the face of adversity, straight out of the same B movie as the types you find in serious drinking bars around the port. It brings to mind the city's former police chief, an exceedingly tough man of Vietnamese origin, called Georges N'Guyen Loc, who could never resist a good line: "I give every addict and dealer I arrest a chance

of life," he would observe with relish. "If they don't take it, hard luck, and if they die it's because they want to."

But lurking beneath this swagger, behind the ethos of Marseilles first and last and two fingers to the rest of France (especially to Paris), pessimism can suddenly break through in the conversations over bitter black coffee or the evening pastis. The city has changed drastically, and people will tell you, for the worse, though many find it hard to explain exactly what troubles them.

Somewhere there is more to it than the knowledge that the local fishing fleet has all but faded away, that never again will convoys of big ships moor in the astonishingly big waters of the bay to await a berth in what was one of the world's greatest ports; that Marseilles is losing out badly to Nice and Aix-en-Provence in the contest for new hi-tech industries.

A couple of years ago the writer Jean Viard warned that the city of the Phoenicians, founded before any other in France, was facing "a historical crisis more profound than any it has ever known".

Battered by severe unemployment, rising crime, wave upon wave of immigration from North Africa, it now seems in danger of losing its most precious asset—the coarse and infectious vitality that has previously triumphed over everything from plague and blockades to the Nazi occupation and spectacular eruptions of political turmoil.

Naturally the best place, the only place, to get a feel for what troubles the Marseillais today is to work the streets: this is a city where everyone has an opinion

and is bursting to express it, usually at the top of their voice. And only an innocent abroad would be surprised to discover that soccer apart—Olympique Marseilles is a religion here—immigration, or race, call it what you will, lies at the heart of things.

Absorbing shoals of foreigners is nothing new for Marseilles: those Italian, Greek, Jewish, Turkish, Armenian and Russian names on war memorials are tangible evidence of the melting pot at work. But as my colleague Brian Moynahan shrewdly observed in the mid-Eighties: "Having lived off the Orient, Marseilles is now edgy living with it."

Les Arabes... the words slip off the tongue of so many white people here, from outright bigots who rever Jean-Marie Le Pen and his National Front party all the way to those who would be horrified at being accused of racism but, strictly *entre nous*, are

thinking of voting NF next time round. *Les Arabes*... a community, one is told time and again, that cannot or will not or should not be absorbed and assimilated.

Depending whose figures are accepted, between 175,000 and 200,000 people of North African origin now live in Marseilles, a sizeable minority of them semi-legally at best. A great many are clustered into dilapidated high-rise apartment blocks in the run-down neighbourhoods of the *quartiers Nord*, where grinding hardship, massive unemployment—up to 60 per cent among young people—and the loss of hope is inevitably reflected in the crime rate.

Although the accuracy of police statistics is keenly contested by local civil rights groups, responsibility for the increase in crime in Marseilles is unhesitatingly sloughed off on to this immigrant community. Ditto the hard times

that have overtaken many of the white-owned businesses around the famous *Canebière* in the city. *Les Arabes* are blamed for turning the streets into souks, too crowded, noisy and generally unsalubrious for the well-heeled bourgeois, who have decamped to pristine suburban shopping malls.

It was precisely to exploit these tensions, exacerbated by Arab complaints about job discrimination and widespread racism in the police force, that Le Pen moved in on Marseilles in a big way a couple of years ago. In the city that the late and legendary Gaston Defere, alias "The Rock", had run as a Socialist fiefdom for more than three decades, the ferocious battle to succeed him had so drained the best party machine on the French left that even Defere's old seat now seemed within the reach of the "Le Penists".

So why does the National Front not run Marseilles today, with Le Pen lordling it in the mayoral chambers—as he once boasted he would—while his chief lieutenants represent the city in the National Assembly? Well, voters here got a good look at Le Pen and the party during the 1988 elections: he did a lot better than expected in the first round of the presidential contest, which he stood absolutely no chance of winning.

But to his unconcealed chagrin, Le Pen was swept away, along with all but one of the NF candidates, in the parliamentary contest only a few weeks later. Characteristically he blamed the French electoral system, but friends of Marseilles prefer to believe that most people, there, of whatever origin, ultimately could not stomach what the NF stood for and what it could do to their beloved but troubled city.

"We send people to the National Assembly to look after our interests," a bar owner told me at the time. "What concerns me is that Le Pen and his cronies parachuted into Marseilles purely to promote his political career." To underline this, he showed me a local newspaper survey indicating before election day that jobs and housing far outweighed "immigration issues" in voters' minds (and law and order issues, too).

"Why should that have surprised you?" demands an acquaintance. "We want a decent life like anyone else and, *au fond*, Marseilles is a damn sight more tolerant place than some I could name elsewhere in France. Different, sure, but down here we like it that way." Me too. *Vive la différence!*

COLLECTING

SPENCER'S SELECTION: Mixed bag of modest oils and water-colours including some decorative pictures and a striking water-colour landscape by Claude Muncaster, 14in x 20in (est £400-£700). Henry Spencer & Sons, 20 The Square, Retford, Nottinghamshire (0777 708633). Viewing: Tues 10am-3pm. Sale: Wed 11am.

ANGLING IN ART: Prints and paintings celebrating the joys of fishing, together with a wide selection of reels, rods, tackle boxes and a bow-fronted glass case containing two huge pike, 19lb and 27lb, caught at Ross-on-Wye in 1940.

Bonhams, Montpellier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-564 9161). Viewing: tomorrow 2.30-5pm, Mon-Tues 8.45am-7pm, Wed 8.45-12 noon. Sale: Wed 2pm.

SCOTTISH SECRETS: John Brown's scarlet plaid kilt and his accompanying tartan underpants are included in the

SALES GUIDE

Highland dress he wore to attend on Queen Victoria (£5,000-£7,000). Fine dolls, teddy bears and tin-plate toys make up the serious bulk of the sale, together with an English George III painted wooden dolls' house, decorated and furnished to the last detail including photograph frames, silver toast-rack, napkin rings and candlesticks (£4,000-£5,000). Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 6880). Viewing: Mon-Tues 9am-4.30pm, Sale: Wed 10.30am and 2.30pm.

DECORATIVE DELIGHTS: Samples from the whole range of decorative arts over the past century, from Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Arts and Crafts Movement, Morris & Co textiles to modern steel freestyle chairs and pottery by Hans Coper and Lucie Rie. Ceramics are

strong, with good examples by Martin Brothers, Moorcroftware, Fulham, Poole and Shelley pottery, Charles Vyse figures and a 26-piece dinner service decorated with a prehistoric horse by Clarice Cliff (£800-£1,200).

Christie's, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (01-839 9060). Viewing: tomorrow 2.30pm, Mon 9am-4.30pm, Tues 9am-4pm. Sale: Wed 11am and 2.30pm.

STAFFORDSHIRE IN CHESTER: Scores of these 18th-century figures, ranging from a pair of the traditional chestnut-brown spaniels (est £200-£300), to rarities such as James Rush (est £400-£500), Emily Sandford (est £300-£500) and William Palmer (est £500-£700), members of famous Victorian families. Sotheby's, Chester (0244 315531). Viewing: today 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon-Tues 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale: Wed 11am.

J. S.

Pots of money



Lot of potential: Poole vase were extremely modest. But then came the sale at King Street and after that prices started to rise quite radically. Then three other vases sold for between £500 and £700. Up to then, most of them had gone for between £60 and £70.

"Poole is becoming valuable because there is not an awful lot of it about—basically, it is still a collector's market." The pottery began life as Carter, Stabler and Adams in about 1920. All the partners had strong artistic leanings and quickly embraced the trends of the time. Truda Carter's deer patterns are auction highlights, particularly a 12in charger dating

from the early 1920s (est £300-£500).

Harold Stabler and his wife, Phoebe, were responsible for "the ball" and "the ram" pottery groups, showing infants in cages and plumes astride the two animals (est £200-£300 each).

Stabler also designed tiles for London Underground showing a seated stag above wavy lines, and a plaster tile blank is being offered (est £500-£800).

The geometric appeal of art deco caught the designer's eye in the 1930s. These vases were very popular between the wars, and are now probably the most sought-after designs.

Work by John Adams, the third partner in the business, includes some "Chinese Blue" vases, as well as some of his modernist-inspired wares from the 1930s. After the Second World War the company, which is still in existence, kept pace with changing taste and produced abstract patterns in the free-form range designed by A.B. Read.

April 19 last year was a benchmark for Poole pottery and February 2 this year might be one as well.

● Poole pottery, Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD (01-581 7611). Viewing: Wed 2.30pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-10am. Sale: Fri 10.30am.

Phillips's next sale to include Poole items, New Bond Street, London (01-629 6602). Sotheby's Buntinghurst (0403 783935) and Chester (0244 315531).

John Shaw

MUSEUMS

Portrait of an artist

Simon Tait looks at an exhibition focusing on the painter T. S. Smith



The legacy of Thomas Stuart Smith: "Pipe of Freedom" (1869)

All the makings of a classic Scottish Gothic novel are revealed in an exhibition opening today at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling. The exhibition is about the museum's founder, the mysterious painter, Thomas Stuart Smith, and the details of his life were uncovered by a couple of local housewives.

Just before he died in 1869, Smith had a legal document drawn up which began: "It being my desire to contribute to the welfare of the town and district of Stirling in Scotland..." It went on to endow £5,000 for a museum and art gallery, and £400-£500 a year to run it.

The document continued: "I beg to propose that the building or edifice be composed of three principal rooms of offices and store rooms with space left on either side for contingent additions. The style of the building to be plain (Italian) but of first-rate material and construction."

"The three rooms to form (firstly) a museum, principal room for Scottish relics and antiquities; (secondly) a picture gallery for oil pictures, water-colour drawings, and sculpture only; (thirdly) a library and reading room, adapted for the benefit of the artisan and working classes."

Smith, who was unmarried and had no children, then went to Avignon in France for a rest cure, caught a cold while out painting, choked on his dinner and died of apoplexy.

The museum opened five years later in 1874, with exhibitions based on Smith's collections of contemporary paintings and nearly 500 of his own paintings and drawings which he had also bequeathed.

Smith was an accomplished artist who spent his youth in France and Italy with a painting fraternity which called him "Lively" Smith, apparently because of his carefree style of painting and his reputation as a bon vivant.

His paintings were exhibited in the Paris Salon and the Royal Academy in 1849, and again in the RA in 1869, the year of his death. But who was Thomas Stuart Smith?

He was born in 1815 or 1816—even that isn't clear. His grandfather, a successful Edinburgh merchant who married the sister of the Provost of Stirling, had two sons, Thomas and Alexander, who, in 1810, inherited the Glassgall estate near Dunblane from their mother's family. Thomas went bankrupt, ceded his inheritance to his brother, and went to London. Legend has it that he went with the unknown woman with whom both he and Alexander were in love; she may or may not have been the painter's mother.

Young Thomas was sent to school in France, and his father disappeared to the Caribbean and is thought to have drowned near Cuba in 1834.

The existence of Thomas Stuart was unknown to his legitimate family: enough money had been left in trust for his schooling, but after his father had disappeared the money stopped.

Through a London agent, the boy made contact with his uncle, who wrote to a friend: "I have had a communication from a young man who claims a very near relation to [my brother]."

Alexander agreed to finance Thomas, who had by this time become a painter, on a 13-year sojourn in Italy where he produced most of his best work. He was also working as a tutor. Sue Jamieson discovered, earning £200 a year.

the claim, having already left Italy. He spent most of the rest of his life in London, selling Glassgall after a brief period as a gentleman farmer.

Stirling and the surrounding district continued to benefit for nearly 100 years from Smith's legacy. But by the late Sixties the museum's galleries were filling with buckets to catch the drips, and not only was the fabric of the museum in a dismal condition but there were fears for the works.

"The temporary exhibitions had a tradition of rapid turnover, but the reason was so the paintings need not be exposed to that atmosphere longer than was absolutely necessary," Diamond says.

The museum was closed in 1973, but there was such an outcry that the local authorities, the district and county councils, reacted immediately. They set up a joint committee, agreed to share core funding of the museum, and started restoring the place.

The Friends of the Smith was founded then, and has continued to give its support with fund-raising events and physical work.

Last year it raised £26,000 which helped to restore 65 of Smith's paintings, many of which will now be on show for the first time.

The exhibition which opens today will show about 50 of the works Smith bought from his British and European colleagues, and about 80 of his own works. The exhibition also demonstrates the loyalty to the gallery of the two volunteers.

Jamieson worked through a large box left to the museum by Smith which had hardly been looked at since his death. She also found details about the Italian years at the Scottish Record Office. Paton catalogued the paintings, which include important works by such artists as MacIaggart and Bonington.

Attendance at the museum in 1986 was 18,000, in 1989 it had risen to 30,000, thanks to Diamond's predecessor, Deborah Haase, who instituted an imaginative programme of contemporary art exhibitions and opened a theatre to bring in visitors.

"It's important for a town to have an art gallery and museum," Paton says, "and it's important that local people have a chance to understand their heritage."

EXHIBITIONS

MUNINGS MEMORIES: Sir Alfred Munings, an artist popular with visitors to Norwich, is the subject of an exhibition supplementing his pictures from his home at Dedham. Good examples of his early Norwich period. Castle Museum, Norwich (0603 222222). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Adult 40p, child 10p. Until Feb 18.

QUICK MARCH: More than 70 water-colours by Frank James (1838-1889), a military artist who served with the Indian Army for 30 years. Vignettes of the Empire not seen together since Queen Victoria commanded they be shown at Acland's in the 1870s. "An artist on the march" includes paintings of India, Kashmir and Abyssinia. The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea (01-730 0717). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm. Free, car-park. From Feb 8 to April 29.

EASTERN ANGLES: 58 black and white photographs by Edwin Smith (1921-71), one of the most prolific photographers of the Fifties and Sixties, illustrate the essence of East Anglia. Unexpected views of well-known places show artistic vitality at work. Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk (0787 72959). Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-4pm. Adult 21p, child concessions 50p. Until March 11.

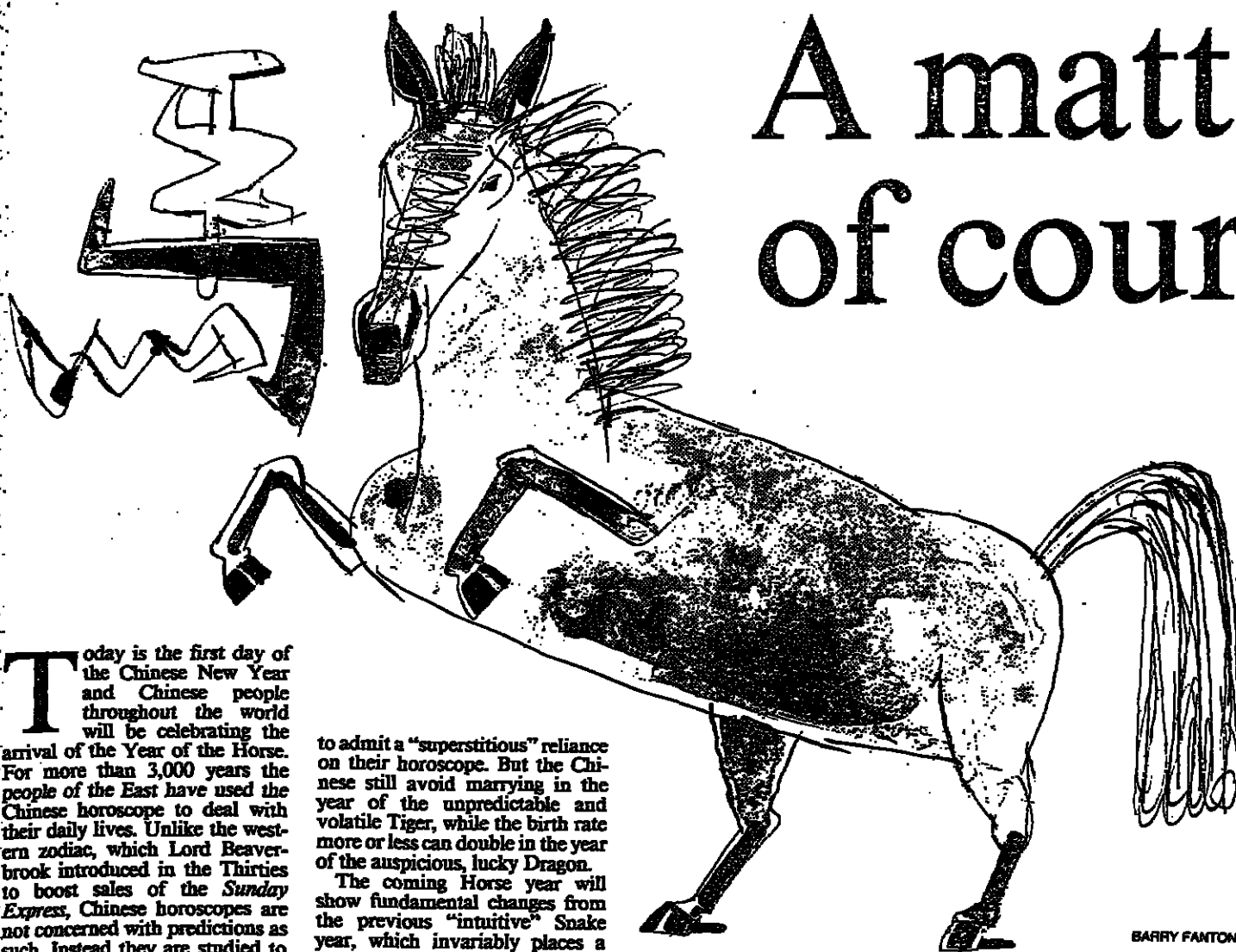
KAKIEMOM: Chinaman at the end of the 17th century filled the great houses of Europe with the colourful Japanese porcelain. There were 193 pieces in one bedroom at Kensington Palace in 1689. They were arranged in pyramids above the doors. Other loans come from everywhere from Armon House to Sherborne Castle as Christie's recreates country-house style with the help of Glaxo sponsorship. Christie's, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (01-839 9060). Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat-Sun 2-5pm. Free. From Thurs.

ERIC GILL: A crucifix by Gill and three sculptures by other members of the Ditching Community have just gone on show after being purchased for £40,000, recalling the celebrated co-operative of artists and craftsmen set up on the Sussex Downs in 1921. Centrepiece of the new exhibition gallery and on view for the first time. Hove Museum, New Church Road, Hove, Sussex (0273 779410). Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free.

J. S.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Barry Fantoni on what to expect from the Chinese Year of the Horse, which is ushered in today



A matter of courses

Today is the first day of the Chinese New Year and Chinese people throughout the world will be celebrating the arrival of the Year of the Horse. For more than 3,000 years the Chinese horoscope to deal with their daily lives. Unlike the western zodiac, which Lord Beaverbrook introduced in the Thirties to boost sales of the *Sunday Express*, Chinese horoscopes are not concerned with predictions as such. Instead they are studied to determine the individual's personality and their compatibility with other signs. The only similarity with the western zodiac is that the Chinese system also has 12 signs, which are named after animals.

Each animal sign has characteristics which are believed to have an abiding effect on everyone born in that year. These characteristics are also thought to determine a particular sign's compatibility with the year's governing animal. For example, Roosters fare poorly with Snakes and so they are expected to do badly in a Snake year. For instance Rooster snooker champion Steve Davis was in less than all conquering form. The same is true of other Rooster sportsmen, including Sandy Lyle and David Gower. Snake Nigel Mansell, on the other hand, has enjoyed a better year, winning two Grand Prix.

The 12 animals of the Chinese horoscope are, in sequence, Rat, Buffalo, Tiger, Cat, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. In China people will seldom marry, have children or form business partnerships unless they consult the compatibility of their signs. Not surprisingly, in an age in which they have been trying hard to compete with 20th-century technology, there has been a reluctance

to admit a "superstitious" reliance on their horoscope. But the Chinese still avoid marrying in the year of the unpredictable and volatile Tiger, while the birth rate more or less can double in the year of the auspicious, lucky Dragon.

The coming Horse year will show fundamental changes from the previous "intuitive" Snake year, which invariably places a strong emphasis on peace, artistic and religious matters. The Chinese might point out that the awakening of democracy in Eastern Bloc countries, not to mention the attempt in their own, is consistent with the snake emerging from hibernation.

By contrast, the Horse year is expected to be practical. Horses are thought to be hard-working and use reason to solve problems as opposed to listening to their inner voice. They tend to have strong personalities and often rise to positions of leadership. This is perhaps why the Chinese also say that Horse people gravitate towards politics.

And since political issues are expected to dominate a Horse year, it might be worthwhile looking at the way our party leaders fare in the next 12 months. Margaret Thatcher has the Buffalo as her sign. Hirohito, Makarios, Geronimo, Nehru, the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon and Hitler were all born in a Buffalo year. So, too, were Charlie Chaplin, Bach, Van Gogh and Walt Disney.

No other sign is more demanding of loyalty or slower to offer it in return. The Buffalo alone will continue to fight when all is lost,

'The Horse leads by virtue of a clear head and rational interpretation of events'

and no one is quicker to blame those around them for their own mistakes. Buffalo men in power are formidable; Buffalo women, with the deeply masculine sign contrasting with their feminine nature, can be terrifying. Many of the successful Buffalo women I have met or studied - for instance, Twigg, the Princess of Wales and Jane Fonda - have possessed the Buffalo ambition more usually associated with men, and correspondingly men have a tendency to feel emasculated in their presence.

Great imagination may be coupled with extreme stubbornness. The Prime Minister is a classic female Buffalo. Observers have cast her as a conviction politician, which in Chinese terms is the *not* just. If there is one overriding characteristic of the Buffalo it is to be found in conviction, which lies

at the root of Buffaloes' powerfully ambitious nature. But when its conviction is turned inward, or merely dissipated, the Buffalo personality tends to act self-destructively.

Buffaloes are born under the twin signs of equilibrium and tenacity - again, two features regularly associated with Mrs Thatcher. In the coming Chinese years, the Horse (1990), the Goat (1991), the Monkey (1992) and the Rooster (1993), only the Rooster year is considered favourable to Buffaloes. The Horse year is particularly bad.

The Horse is believed to rise naturally to the top of any department, leading by virtue of a clear head and rational interpretation of events. Independent, yet capable of delegation, Horse men and women, born under the twin signs of elegance and ardour,

enjoy an easy-going relationship with those under them. Neil Kinnock is a Horse. His next most auspicious year is 1991, the year of the Goat. Horses and Goats have one of the closest of all understandings (putting a goat in with a highly strung race horse the night before a race is an effective cure for fright) and an election in 1991 could favour Kinnock. Curiously, Horses are not expected to perform well in their own year.

Tigers are rebels at heart and prefer to lead small units rather than take control of the whole army. Tigers respond poorly to authority and the Chinese strongly advise that two Tigers should never enter into a partnership. This would no doubt explain why the two Tigers of the Alliance, David Steel and David Owen, ended their mould-breaking political partnership with such publicly expressed acrimony.

Born under the sign of courage, Tiger men find working in a partnership extremely difficult. Always bubbling with new ideas, which they put over with energy, Tigers have much to offer. But they have a tendency to run out of steam at the vital moment. A faded Tiger is a common political animal. Horse years do not greatly favour Tigers or Snakes, which is bad news for Paddy Ashdown.

He has the same sign as Indira Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto. John F. Kennedy was also a Snake. When they find themselves in power, Snakes lead through a mixture of charisma and wisdom. Snakes are, in fact, born under the sign of wisdom, which blesses them with intuition, but they are thought to be indecisive when crucial decisions need to be made. According to the Chinese horoscope, of the four established party leaders Ashdown would serve Britain best. His sign has the greater sensitivity to current world matters, such as dealing with environmental issues, and the Snake is a natural lover of peace. But Snakes lack real determination, which means they are seldom ruthless in their ambition. Their tendency is to wait for the right moment as opposed to actually creating the moment.

In general, Goats are expected to enjoy spectacular success in a Horse year. We shall keep a close watch on Boris Becker, Cecil Parkinson, Cilla Black, Lech Walesa, Mikhail Gorbachev and Rupert Murdoch.

NEW YEAR EVENTS

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The Year of the Horse will be welcomed in Chinese communities throughout the country over the next week. Some of the biggest held this weekend are listed below.

LONDON:

● Soho: One of the oldest and best-known celebrations centres on Gerrard Street, Newport Place, Lisle Street and Soho Square, with the famous Lion Dance plus other Chinese entertainment. Tomorrow 11.30am-late evening.

● Covent Garden: At Neal Street East, Derek Walters, an expert in Chinese astrology and divination answers questions on personal horoscopes, 2pm to 4pm, and John Ainsworth, Boreali gold medalist, answers questions about the art at the Boreali Shop, Neal Street. Today 11am-1pm.

● The Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street: A martial arts demonstration of kung fu, followed by a workshop at which to learn basic tai chi skills, followed by the Lion Dance in full costume. Tomorrow, 2.30pm to 4pm.

● Hounslow: The Lion Dance, at the Treaty Centre, today 12.30-2pm, followed by a concert with Chinese singers, instrumentalists, dancers and martial arts demonstrations at the United Reform Church from 4pm. Admission to concert: adult £2, child £1.

● Haringey: The Lion Dance leaves the Chinese Community Centre at noon tomorrow and goes to Langham School Lower, Downhills Park Road, where

there will be Chinese folk music, kung fu demonstrations and Chinese puppet show for children.

MANCHESTER: Lion and unicorn dances in Chinatown and local celebrations. Tomorrow, from 1pm.

LIVERPOOL: The lion dance in Chinatown, tomorrow at noon, followed by a variety show with singers, dancers, tai chi and other demonstrations at the Pagoda Chinese Community Centre from 2pm.

BIRMINGHAM: Tomorrow the unicorn dance processes through Chinatown - taking about three hours - and from 2pm at The Ritz, Hurst Street, indoor celebrations include Chinese folk music and dance, disco and martial arts. Speeches from the Lord Mayor and representatives from the Chinese Embassy and Hong Kong Commission followed by a lucky draw.

GLASGOW: In honour of the Chinese New Year, Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery has mounted an exhibition, "The Year of the Horse", which opens today. On display is the magnificent Selton Murray Thomson collection which contains hundreds of model horses - ancient and modern, rare and unusual - plus depictions of horses from the art and social history departments of the museum. The exhibition runs until April 1, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-10pm, Sunday 12-6pm. On Monday at the City Halls, throughout the day, celebrations include traditional dancing and folk music and Chinese rituals. Further information 041 334 9355/227 6055.

OTHER OUTINGS

GREEN FAIR: Stalls manned by 25 environmental organizations, including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, World Wildlife Fund for Wildlife, RSPCA and the National Trust. Also puppet shows, "green" films, a nature trail, arts and crafts activities, music and games.

The Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, London N3. Tomorrow 1.30-8.30pm. Adult £2, child £1.

UNICORN THEATRE PRODUCTION: Roald Dahl's popular children's book, *The Twits*, adapted as a musical story for children aged six and over opens the second half of the Unicorn season.

Unicorn Theatre for Children, Great Newport Street, London WC2. Today until Feb 26, Sat, Sun and school holidays at 2.30pm. Tickets £3, £4, £5, plus 10p temporary membership. Box office 01-836 3334.

CRAFTS IN ACTION '90: A variety of crafts for sale plus demonstrations, light lunches and refreshments. The Deer Park and National Trust shop are also open.

Dunham Massey Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow 10am-4.30pm. Admission free.

CHARLES I COMMEMORATION: Annual event which takes place on the last Sunday in January and commemorates Charles I's

death on January 30, 1649. The Royal Warrant of the English Civil War Society in authentic 17th-century dress and armour, leaves St James's Palace at 11.30am and marches to Banqueting House via The Mall and Horseguards - the route of Charles's last walk. Return march via Trafalgar Square. Tomorrow.

CANTERBURY WAITS: Children's concert with John Williams and friends. After the performance children can talk to the artists and try out the instruments. Refreshments. Christ Church College, Canterbury, Kent. Today 3pm. Adult £1, child 75p.

BRITISH TOYMAKERS GUILD FAIR: High quality toys in wood, metal, clay and textiles. Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8. Today 10am-5.30pm, tomorrow 11am-5pm, Monday 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £2.50, child 1.50, family ticket £5.

THE TEDDY BEAR SHOW: Exhibition of bears made from 1903 - when the first appeared - to the present day. Tower Art Gallery and Museum, High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne. Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Until Feb 18. Free.

Judy Froshaug

CAMPUS

Rob Findlay on the new tuition fees system and how to run rag weeks

Sunny Shores Holiday Campus offers you the best in recreational degrees. Bachelor of Arts courses are available in skiing, windsurfing and sunbathing science, starting in September. No tuition fee surcharge, and bar prices well within your maintenance grant. Tents provided.

John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, made it all possible last Tuesday when he launched the new tuition fees system whereby the amount paid by local education authorities varies according to the cost of providing the course. The changes will apply from 1991-92. In his own words: "Such fees would apply the market force of student demand more evenly across courses of different costs."

Or, in more market-oriented language, pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap. Can we now look forward to fun, inexpensive and vacuous courses in hill-walking, knitting and Tory education policy? With lecture theatres overflowing as a result of the rising numbers of students, why not get them out a bit? We could have the John MacGregor Lecture Tent or the Speakers' Corner Institute of Theoretical Politics.

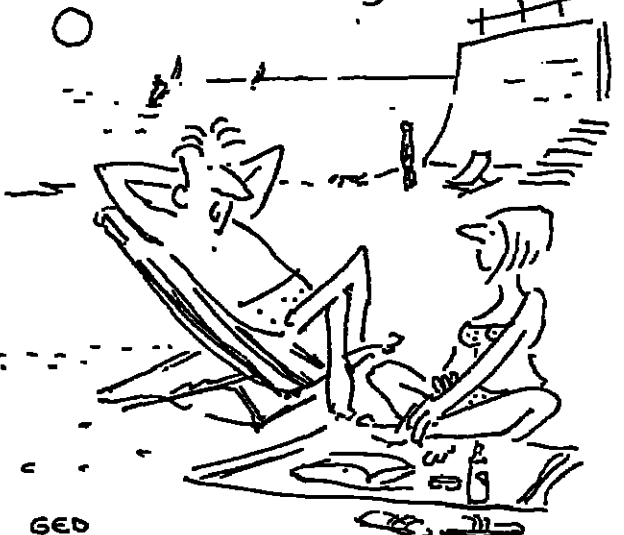
The smarter entrepreneur will have noticed that the £1,675 paid for a classroom-based student is peanuts compared with the £2,500 that a local education authority hands out for a laboratory or workshop-based course. Any backers for honours in test tube cleaning, in fixing your car (garage facilities extra), or in a self-financing course in explosives manufacture and bricklaying?

I thought not. All the real businessmen are out picking up clinical course fees at £4,500 a throw. With white mice could get through 30 a day throughout a course in rodent care. Surely even the cheapest, most inexperienced lecturer can teach them better than that?

The more traditional courses will seem financially unattractive. Already universities find it difficult to afford to teach good science and

Pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap

I've a degree in sunbathing and first class honours in truancy.



engineering. The country is so short of vets that a large proportion of them come in ready qualified from overseas, yet the Cambridge and Glasgow vet schools are threatened with closure. Even the cheaper "classroom" courses require more lecture theatres and bigger libraries to cope with the rising numbers.

If student numbers are going to double, as the Government intends, where will they all live? Universities can't afford to house them. They can't raise rents because the maintenance grants are too small for students to pay the extra, and they can't raise the fees because they are set by the Government. When a student is raped in the red-light district you ask what she was doing there. The answer is that she can't afford to live anywhere else.

The solution forced on the universities, and the one which the vice-chancellors are talking about, is to charge top-

up fees to students to cover costs adequately. Although a recent Department of Education and Science memorandum stated that there are "no plans to change the present arrangements whereby standard tuition fees are met from public funds", it "welcomes the lively public debate about the future funding of higher education". There must be an alternative.

"Welcome to the Red Braces College of Creative Accountancy, sponsored by Asset, Strips and Sells. Top-up fees paid by your financial sector sponsor, with only a three-year employment commitment after graduation. Generous repayment terms for non-completers, and a free cellular telephone to those gaining first class honours. Also available are joint honours in Astrology and Accountancy, Physics and Accountancy, and Veterinary Science and Accountancy. We regret that the course on Political

Raising money for charity is a worthy exercise, but the unethical practices of recent years have brought rag into disrepute. By keeping an eye on good taste, there is no reason why it should not be the good, clean fun that is intended. Rob Findlay is a post-graduate student at Jesus College, Cambridge.

Thought and Accountancy has been withdrawn.

ARE YOU excited by virginity auctions or slave sales? Do you want to hire a hit squad or pour a bucket of unsanitary fluids over a screaming nominee? Welcome to the seedier side of charity, as seen in universities and polytechnics all over the country, as rag weeks swing into action.

Many people are disgusted by the tasteless stunts performed in the name of charity. Kidnappings and assault teams have accidentally inflicted injuries on their victims. Unwilling students are forced to participate in degrading public rituals, losing face if they refuse the mob pressure, losing dignity if they accept. The staple diet of the ubiquitous rag mags is often a string of obscene, racist, sexist and anti-gay jokes, packaged as charity works.

The National Association of Rags was founded recently to try to restore public faith. Apart from co-ordinating rag collections to ensure that thousands of un-washing students do not descend on the same town on the same day, it is concerned with improving media representation. Guidelines are set to keep rag events within the bounds of decency, and organizers of rags are made aware of the image problem.

A spokesman pointed out that not all rag mags are obscene, with Sheffield and Aston producing relatively good ones; clearly there is no requirement to be disgusting. He also highlighted public anxiety about the whole reason for rag, which is, of course, charitable fund raising. Many members of the public are even unaware that the money goes to charity - £220,000 last year from Aberystwyth alone - imagining that it supplements the student grant.

Raising money for charity is a worthy exercise, but the unethical practices of recent years have brought rag into disrepute. By keeping an eye on good taste, there is no reason why it should not be the good, clean fun that is intended.

Time to break from the NUS

Students at Southampton University are to vote by ballot on Thursday on whether to disaffiliate from the National Union of Students. The issues that the students are faced with call into question the existing attitudes to representation and direction.

The vast majority of colleges of higher and further education are affiliated to the NUS. The proponents of the disaffiliation movement argue that the NUS is incompetent, inefficient and incapable of serving the student population. With the Education Secretary's vision of a doubling of student numbers within the next 20 years, the debate has even greater implications. Furthermore, dissatisfaction is certainly not confined to this campus alone. The following week Birmingham University will be faced with the same decision, and a breakaway from the NUS at either place would not only damage the credibility of the national union but could encourage other establishments to reconsider the cost of their affiliation.

What has caused this discontent? The answer is both financial and political. Campaigners are perturbed at the level of contributions forwarded to Nelson Mandela House, which currently stands at £45,000 a year from Southampton. With spending tightly controlled at Southampton, various groups such as the sports clubs and societies would welcome a share if this sum was available to the local union.

Politically, it is felt that

Student politics must move up to date, Daniel Klinger-Blitz argues

NUS Conference and the members of the national executive who direct policy do not command or deserve the respect and political clout for which they strive.

At the winter conference in Blackpool two years ago, a student from Bristol University who made homophobic comments was assaulted by angry delegates.

The following morning, the delegates voted, in line with all their democratic beliefs, to strip him of his right to free speech.

They excluded him from the conference, claiming that this decision was taken in order to prevent him from being further abused.

While the NUS has successfully targeted banks, it has ignored the fact that we as students are commodities and therefore have substantial bargaining power.

Southampton University produces a large number of highly valued engineers, lawyers, economists, physicists and accountants, as well as excellent in the field of arts. We as students are therefore the base of the pyramid of industry and commerce, whose interest is

evident in view of the large sums of money that Dr Gordon Higgison, the vice-chancellor, has secured for our university.

The idea of students paying their own tuition fees is a logical consequence of the loans programme, and this is a battle which our successors will no doubt engage in. The common interests of students and business are further emphasized by the demographic time-bomb, of which we are continually reminded. It is towards industry and commerce, therefore, that students must address their cause.

But how? Given the forthcoming dearth of graduates in this country, companies might be persuaded to support NUS proposals, and even be prepared to lobby Parliament on behalf of students. In return for this intellectual sponsorship, companies who supported our interests would in turn receive the backing of the unions on campus regarding recruitment and the promotion of their products, where applicable. Sponsorship is already increasing, and the sooner we forge links with industry and commerce, the better. I am not suggesting that academia should be market-led; there is an important role for non-vocational subjects which train our minds and diversify our culture and enrich our society, like history and the classics. But such a marriage of convenience

is inevitable if not desirable, providing that industry becomes more philanthropic. However, these ideals will never be achieved with old tactics and outdated tools. While mass demonstrations may have brought students into the political limelight in the Sixties, they achieve nothing today. They give students a militant image and lose what little respect we have. What is needed is a professional approach to student images and arguments. Enlisting the support of image-merchants is a start. At Southampton University, Anderson Consultancy has agreed to train our sabbaticals in the skills which are necessary for their office. This type of engagement need not stop here. The publicity gains from aiding local union activities of this nature are manifold. Professional services offered free should not be missed, and could extend beyond management skills to assistance in advertising in publicity campaigns. With today's means of communication, such as fax machines and computer technology, students would be able to command a wider and more sympathetic audience.

On Thursday I would like to see the disaffiliation move succeed. Ideally, reform should come from within the NUS; but given that this has not happened, and seems unlikely in the future, a disaffiliation from the NUS might provide the shock necessary to start the reform process.

● Daniel Klinger-Blitz is a second-year economics student at Southampton University.

It's your round

From David Richards, Secretary, Bristol University Conservative Association

Last week Alan Fidler (*The Times*, January 20) considered the merits of student demonstrations as a form of protest. In his survey of student life in the past 40 years, however, he suggested that "free education for all" is being withdrawn and that student unions are under threat as "alleged" closed shops.

I would suggest that "free education" is the idea that students do not have to pay for their education, and not the idea that a student's lifestyle is paid for by the taxpayer. Any student I know will tell you that the largest amount of income, after rent and food, is spent on beer. Likewise, the ordinary student was probably

writing an essay or watching *Neighbours* during the "Battle of Westminster Bridge" (a demonstration on loans which can hardly have won London's support when traffic was brought to a halt). The issue for the Nineties is to increase the numbers in higher education, not to continue the cosy and arbitrary system whereby

local authorities decide who they think needs a grant, a grant which has never been considered enough. The Navy ended its ration, we must end beer money if numbers are to be increased.

As for the NUS, it is no mere allegation that student unions are "closed shops". I shall consider the NUS and my own student union "open shops" only when they are made up of willing individuals joining on a personal basis.

EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades visits the latest link in the McCoy brothers' chain and a vodka bar in Kensington

Zeroing in on black pudding

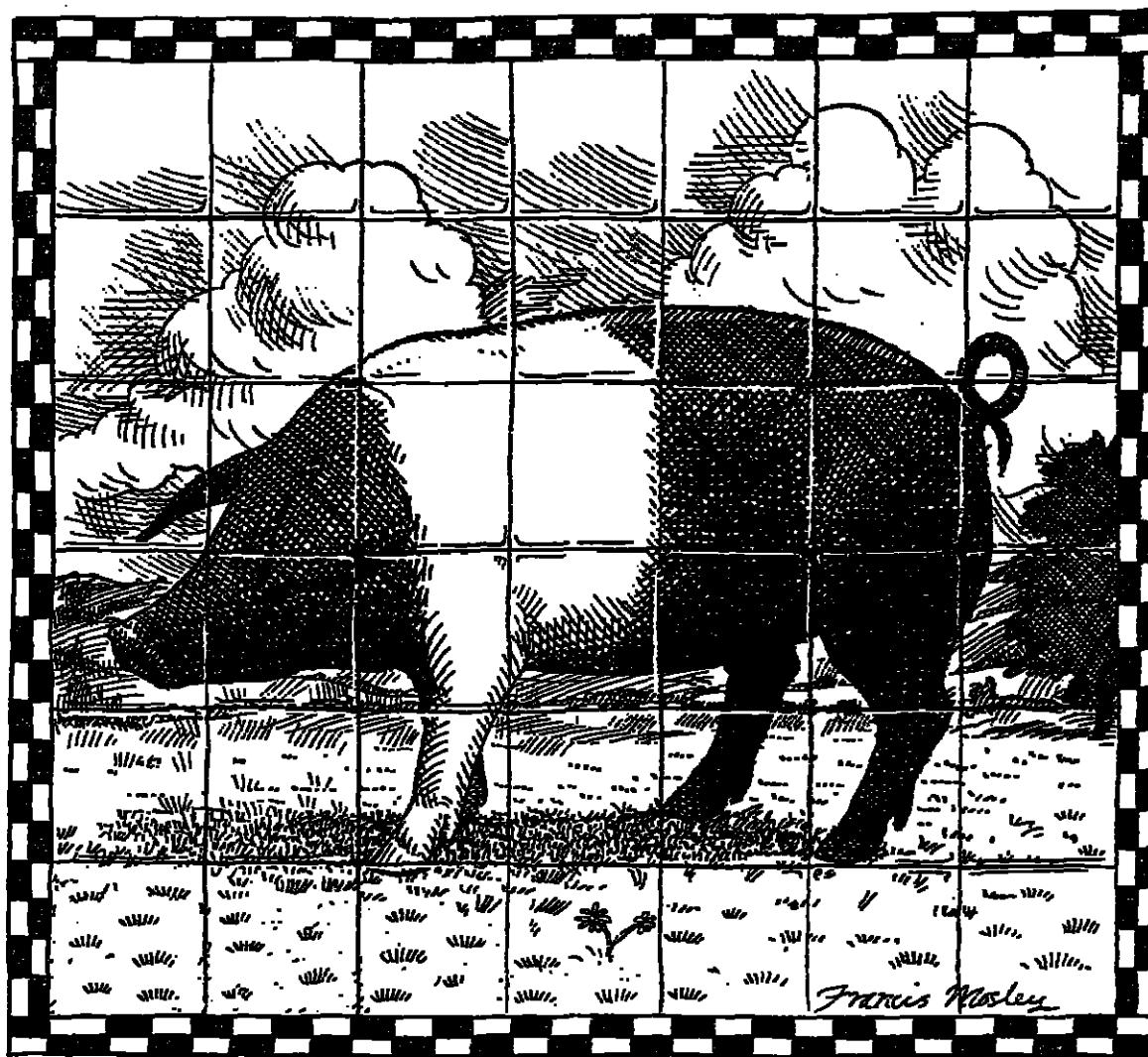
For reasons that I need not go into here, I spent a morning last week exploring a single-track road in the Vale of York. Cold? Well, not brass monkeys, but discernibly closer to zero than London had been when I entrained in the early morning, and certainly not the sort of weather for wandering purposefully across damp, flat farmland unless you can subsequently retire to a hefty meal of winter food and black velvet at McCoy's. Not the endlessly lauded McCoy's at the Tontine in the non-existent village of Staddlebridge, but its sibling beside the River Ouse in York itself. I wrote a few weeks ago that chain restaurants should be boycotted. I'm not certain if the McCoy brothers' three restaurants constitute a chain — they probably do, but a very short chain, an ankle chain. This is a chain restaurant, then, which is an exception to that rule. This is to be expected: the only predictable thing about the McCoy's is that they don't go by the book.

The restaurant was empty save for two businessmen, although admittedly we didn't get there till two o'clock. Clearly the place isn't fancy enough. Restaurants in the North of England are meant to be as overdone as Bet Lynch. This place is too open-necked, I suspect. Why, even the bricks are naked. And there are no table-cloths. It would do well in London, and in Bristol, but in the North, even in a city as fashionable as York, people apparently want to see a bit of chandelier for their money. This place is a converted warehouse with cast iron columns. As I say, there is much exposed brickwork; the other predominant element is dark brown wood. There's nothing particularly novel about it, indeed 20 years ago this sort of décor was espoused by burger bars. Maybe that association's hangover works against it. And I can't believe that the music helps. If restaurants were to play decent music it wouldn't be so bad, but the terminal gentility of restaurateurs' taste is aggravating. The

aural pollution that we had to suppress here was by Simon and Garfunkel.

The view is as good as the food: a (swollen) river, a stern warehouse on the far bank bearing the legend The World's Largest Furnishers; something called Lew's Place; a Tudor pub; a late-17th century red-brick house with stone quoins. You can sit at a window table and gaze at this while stuffing yourself with, say, *boudin noir*, or steak and kidney pie, or calf liver. These were all impeccable. The black pudding is the same as that which Eugene McCoy serves in the bistro at the Tontine; it's French and has no doubt won many gongs at Norman pudding fairs; it's as good as you can get. The pie also included oyster and was the real thing. The liver is fried and served with its juices. We also ate a rather less seasonal composition of thickly cut smoked salmon wrapped round prawns in mayonnaise — this may not be cooking but it's good eating. Vegetables included buttery bubble and squeak and new potatoes that had been boiled then turned in butter. There were also some pretty tired carrots and courgettes. With two glasses of black velvet, a bottle and a half of a nice Fleurie and no sweets the damage was £56. You could easily get away with £30 by sticking to the set menu.

The black pudding at Wodka in Kensington is an oddity. In texture it is closer to the Lancashire product (Bury market is the best source) than to the French one. That is to say that it contains rye or some other cereal and is thus not smooth the way McCoy's is. But it is distinguished by a flavour that suggests it has been cured. There is a variant of the northern Spanish *morcilla* that tastes smoked, but it lacks the appeal of this, presumably, Polish recipe which I'd certainly commend to anyone who enjoys pigs' blood. This restaurant or vodka bar or blinis café is also commendable, not least because the boss is both affable and on the ball. He's in his late twenties. I guess, and



— for those interested in such matters — resembles the young Paul Newman, a Fast Eddie with longer hair. His partner or girlfriend or whatever is also a stunner, with a mid-Sixties Sassoon bob. They do much more than stand about looking like out-of-age beautiful people.

A restaurant such as this is more than usually reliant on whisky service since the majority of punters drinks lots of vodka rather than bottles of wine. A tot of vodka (bison grass or lemon or cherry or flavoured with aniseed and called Goldwasser) lasts, I've observed, even less time than a bottle of wine. Hence the need for the staff to be ever alert. The staff here are.

McCoy's
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
17 Skeldergate, York (0904 612191)
Lunch and dinner every day. £35-£50. Major cards.

WODKA
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
12 St Alban's Grove, London W8 (01-837 6513)
Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner every day. £50-£100. Major cards.

Years ago the premises — in a backwater of 1840s villas tempered by some interesting stuff of the 1930s and 50s (yes, it's possible) — used to house one of the first Thai restaurants in the capital. That establishment was off-putting due to its discomfiting folk rituals — you had to take off your shoes and squat while dancers from Holiday '72 did their bit. Now it's laid back. Informal? Don't you dare use a word that includes *formal*, even with a prefixed contradiction. It's done out with white, old-fashioned butcher-shop tiles in the front part, with not-very-thoroughly-stripped pine at the back (the streaks of paint differentiate it from Seventies stripped pine), with grey stained tables and grey industrial carpet. Downstairs is a more utilitarian space hung with morbidly surreal posters — there is a particularly fine one for a production of *Alban Berg's Lulu*. (There is no music here.)

The menu veers more towards variations on the dishes that French chefs created in the francophile eastern Europe of the 19th century than to what is the London-Polish norm, i.e., peasant cooking — though there are tokens of that

direction in, for instance, the black pudding I mentioned. Caviare with blinis is not peasant cooking. The caviare was good — though one can hardly praise the restaurant for anything more than buying right. The blinis, though, are, or should be, the responsibility of the kitchen and they were good too. They're also served with, *inter alia*, puréed aubergine, another, and much cheaper, dish of merit. The actual cooking stands up too. Pierogi (dumplings or ravioli) are filled with mushrooms and sauerkraut and are all right even if the dough is slightly underdone. Kulbiak is done in a form that omits rice and mushrooms — which is rather like omitting rascasse from bouillabaisse. Never mind, the salmon, egg and dill in pastry is OK, even if it should carry another name. Other dishes worth eating include breadcrumbed fish cakes and bilberry tart.

For some reason I can't figure (given that the titular spirit is the main point of the place) Wodka also has an exceptionally tempting wine list, un-classic and composed of cheapish bottles from all over the world. Two will pay anything between £50 and £100.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change; they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

ITALIAN

River Café
Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, London W6 (01-381 8824)
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This spartan, casual-dine dining room serves arguably the finest Italian food in London. One of the reasons for this is that neither Ruth Rogers nor Rosa Gray, who cook here, is Italian. The recipes they use and improve on are home ones, mainly Tuscan and Piedmontese. The ingredients they use are fine and rustic and allowed to speak for themselves. Bottles of minestrone, tomato and green sauce, bean soup, tomato and bread soup — all these are splendid, and so are the wines, and so is the setting. Now open for dinner as well as lunch, £20.

Pizzeria Castello
20 Walworth Road, London SE1 (01-703 2555)
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The best pizzas in London by a long way. Big restaurant, ranks of pizza ovens by the door, utilitarian décor, fantastic bustle as though this were Naples itself. The prices are very low for cooking of such excellence. Drink Colle Secco. £28.

Zizzi's Dishes
112 Cheyne Walk, London SW10 (01-352 7534/1234)
01-376 5122
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Austere elegant treat with estimable cooking and unusually congenial waiters. The following are recommended: trito misto of veal, brains, sweetbreads, kidney and liver; salmon marinated in lemon juice and olive oil; raw beef with Parmesan; pheasant breast with port and herb tim ml su. The wines are no more than adequate. £28.

The Park Room
Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 2000)
★ ★ ★

Torpid service, Radio 2 music, views of the park, "new" Italian cooking. The kitchen's ventures seem inevitable, but its execution of dishes is hit and miss — undercooked chicken with fatty tasteless mushrooms, spongy pasta and so on. Beef carpaccio with lettuce sauce is commendable. Grossly overpriced. £28.

Cibo
3 Russell Gardens, London W14 (01-371 6271)
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Very exciting cooking in a decorative hodgepodge across the rail tracks from Olympia. It vies with the River Café for supremacy

among London Italian restaurants, not least because it has nothing to do with the debased traditions of that stagnant backwater of the catering world. The kitchen combines unfussy innovation with simply prepared classics and reminds us that Italy is a neighbour of Austria. Some dishes are specifically north Italian, some might be found in any restaurant anywhere between Bologna and Brussels. Among the many excellent dishes from a frequently changing menu: raw marinated salmon, tuna and anchovies; grigliato; Asiago cheese with sweetened meat peppers; marvellously light gnocci with braised rabbit; caps fried with garlic; beef with stewed caps; mulet with extra virgin oil and garlic. Vegetables are inventive. Service is generous. The Italian wine list is generously priced and well chosen. £25.

Pizzeria Condotti
4 Mill Street, London W1 (01-499 1306)
★ ★

Being smart place hung with indifferent 1970s prints. Well-made pizzas. Drink Peroni beer or champagne, there's little between to bother with. With the latter £42.

Pizzoccolo's
160 Evershot Street, London NW11 (01-326 7482)
★ ★ ★

Try black and white place making an effort to get away from Italian catering norms. The cooking has its ups and downs but the simpler dishes are worth trying. £45.

Vin Santo
21 Hollywood Road, London SW10 (01-352 6834)
★ ★ ★

Another Italian catering outfit in the familiar Chelsea/Kingsbridge mould. The cooking is barely distinguished but that doesn't seem to be the point — the fascination of the place is barely sociological. The menu includes a reasonable selection of pastas and turgues. Usual service. £46.

KENT

Honours Hill
87 High Street, Edenbridge (01-326 66757)
★ ★ ★

A beautifully converted disrepair mill in commuterland. The cooking, by Neville Goodwin, is polished but rather tired in its favouring as if it does not want to take. Fish tends to be better than meat — red mullet with a red wine sauce, smoked fishes in jelly, etc. Impressive wines, courteous service. £25.

Thackeray's House
85 London Road, Tunbridge Wells (0822 511821)
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

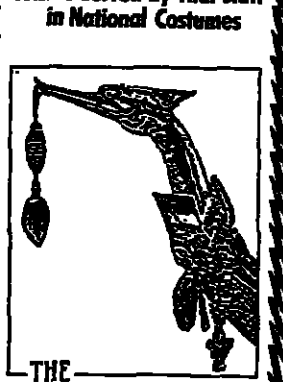
The newest house is actually a large 18th-century cottage. It's smart without fussiness, amiable, efficient. The cooking is painstakingly considered, well balanced, intensely flavoured but not over rich. Nor is it overdone — good ingredients are not drowned by heavy sauces. Hot sea bass pilch, presented with caps, have well-timed sautéed potatoes and sauce and meat-steeped prunes, fish soup, mulet, veal with shallots, cream and vinegar — these are fine dishes. The wines are mostly French and not overpriced. £20.

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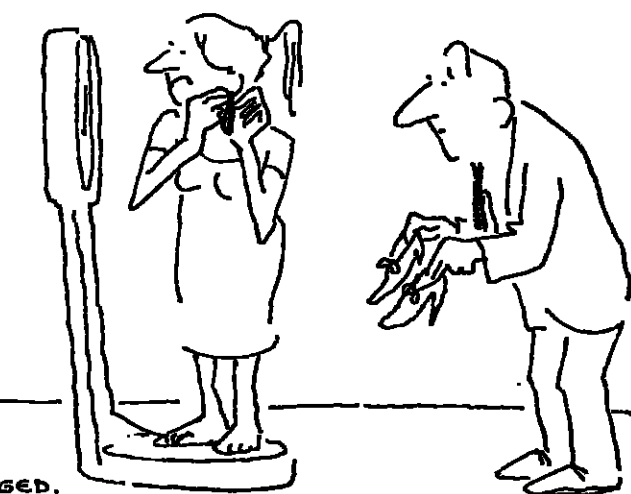
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DIET

Swings and roundabouts

Anthony Clare ponders the bestsellers' current preoccupation with losing, and gaining, weight



During the six years I spent as a member of the Health Education Council (and its successor, the Health Education Authority) I often had to listen as nutritionists and PE instructors bemoaned the national diet and the distaste shown by many citizens for physical exercise and demanded that something be done about both. It all seems a long time ago now, but I do remember earnest health educationists mobilizing pamphlets and other bits of propaganda telling the British that regarding the greasy fried breakfast as the high point of gastronomy and the daily shuffle to the local pub as physical exercise was not calculated to dislodge the various parts of the UK from their notorious position at the top of the international league table of deaths from cardio-vascular disease.

Nobody took a blind bit of notice, or so it seemed. So my heart leapt when I saw last week's Top Ten Paperback (General) listing in *The Sunday Times*. We had after all made an impact. The British were mending their eating and exercising ways. Up and down the land it would appear that converts are thumbing briskly through Rosemary Conley's *Inch-Loss Plan* (No 1) and her *Complete Hip and Thigh Diet* (No 2), are sampling with gusto the *New BBC Diet* (No 3) with its five new plans described engagingly as "vegetarian, gourmet, hearty eating and quickfire" and are practising some of Callan Pinckney's *Callanetics* (No 4) (slimming exercises "said to have been favoured by the Duchess of York" — now there's a recommendation that is hard to beat). The spectre conjured

up for me by this solemn quartet is the fried bread and 10 beers a day brigade reformed and practising dietary austerity with the fanaticism of Cistercian monks. But then my eyes fell on the latter half of the Top Ten, and my confidence evaporated. At No 5, *The 1990 Good Pub Guide*. At No 6, *The Good Food Guide 1990*. At Nos 7 and 9 respectively, *Egon Ronay's* and the AA's *Guides to Hotels and Restaurants*. Indeed, only a book by a clairvoyant on the cases she sees and the *Guinness Book of British Hit Singles* prevented a clean sweep of the general paperback Top Ten by books devoted either to elaborate ways of losing weight or sophisticated ways of putting it on. Is this further evidence of

how divided Britain has become, with one half of the nation burning off the fat savouring vegetarian delicacies and pounding the parallel bars while the other half, beer bellies blubbing and blood vessels clogging faster than the Dartford Tunnel, guzzles *nouvelle cuisine* and proops up the lounge bars? Or does it simply reflect the fact that the entire nation is united on an elaborate roller coaster oscillating between blow-outs and fasts? Are the people who read both categories of books the same people? They may very well be. These various drink, diet and exercise manuals are all devoted to the notion of quality, and they reflect the growing sophisticated knowledge concerning health and the factors that affect it. Complete

Hip and Thigh Diet and The Good Pub Guide might appear somewhat opposed, but they share a common concern for perfection, even if in the case of the first it is to do with the perfect body whereas in the case of the second it is the perfect beer.

These paperbacks are in the mainstream of a perfectly respectable and long-standing genre — the self-help manual — designed to equip readers with the requisite knowledge that can free them from dependence on experts, specialists, connoisseurs. Books on diet and exercise hold out the promise of control restored to readers, control over body shape, attractiveness, physical vigour, athleticism, ageing. Books on pubs, hotels, restaurants, wine are not intrinsically different. They enable readers to transform themselves from somewhat passive consumers of junk and mass food, drink and service to active participants exercising choice and therefore control in this important area of their lives.

Sex usually figures prominently in the paperback list, but is strikingly absent from the current version. Perhaps it is the AIDS scare. Perhaps it reflects a disillusionment with the unfilled promises of the so-called permissive era. Or perhaps we are all just too exhausted by the demands of the search for the best pub or the rigours of hip and thigh diets. Or, and here's a thought, perhaps this obsessive preoccupation with the body fit and the body beautiful is mere sublimation, and sex is there all right but lurking in the AA *Guide* and the *New BBC Diet*. Freud would have loved that — and probably would have said it too.

The pud returns

During the Fifties and Sixties the European intruder Black Forest gâteau replaced traditional British puddings on menus in pubs, hotels and restaurants. Then, in the Seventies and Eighties, "Death by Chocolate", cheesecake, and Mississippi med pies crept on to mass market menus.

Now exhibitors and trend spotters at this week's Hotteltympia exhibition in London predict "the British pudding is back". As we enter the Nineties, treacle sponge with custard, spotted dick,

bread and butter pudding and summer pudding will appear increasingly on menus. John Docker, founder of Alveston Kitchens which later sold out to United Biscuits, is encouraging this "pud in pub" revival. According to Docker, the key to the return of the traditional pudding is "the bottomless collar". The custard is frozen over the sponge in a paper collar, in a pack that

looks like a night-light. When placed in a microwave the custard dissolves over the sponge. Prices per portion range from £1.20 to £3.50. Deep-fried ice-cream, coated in hot butter and nuts, is a Nineties dessert. It is already popular in the United States and Australia, and ice-cream maker Dayvilles hopes that deep-fried ice-cream will become as popular as Black Forest gâteau.

Lesley Abdela

THE TIMES COOK

Bagging a bargain

The current glut of pheasants means that they have become a more affordable meat. Frances Bissell suggests some ways to take advantage of the falling prices

During the latter part of the game season there has been much talk about the glut of pheasants and falling prices ("75p a bird"), but the true picture is a little more difficult to uncover.

There are, indeed, more pheasants around than has been the case for some time. I have been given different explanations of this. One game dealer I spoke to put it down to the fact that fewer birds are being exported. This is happening for two reasons, he claimed. One is the competition from elsewhere, particularly eastern Europe, and the other reason is the difficulty in exporting game to certain countries because of import regulations. Another game dealer felt that it was more a question of greed on the part of the shooting fraternity. There are more pheasants available because more are being shot, he said. Instead of being satisfied with a bag of 100 birds, a good day's shooting now needs to result in 500 birds. Thus more birds have to be reared to meet the demand. In turn, this means that more birds are available for the table.

Learning all this, one's immediate reaction is to look for lower prices in the shops. For those buying pheasant in the country, nearer the source of supply, or direct from dealers, prices are likely to be lower than last November. I was quoted £2 a brace in feather and about £5 a brace oven-ready from one Northamptonshire game dealer. On the other hand, retailers are not necessarily dropping their prices. A London butcher said that his prices would remain at £4.50 for a hen and £4.95 for a cock pheasant. But some retailers are passing on the benefit of lower prices to the customer. Sainsbury, which was selling hen pheasants at £3.95 at the start of the season, brought the price down to £3.25, and has, for the last 10 days or so, been selling them for £2.95 each. At that sort of price, pheasant compares extremely well with chicken and guinea fowl, not to mention red meat, and becomes food that we can afford to eat more often.

Pheasant is a versatile meat, with good flavour and texture. It can be mixed with other game to make excellent pies and puddings, or casserolled slowly to tenderize it (it's an older bird in its second season). I still like to cook breasts and legs separately, which makes a pheasant ideal for two meals for two people. The carcass makes stock for a whole range of soups.

Here are a few of my favourite pheasant recipes. Although the season ends next week, pheasant, like all game, can be sold for up to 10 days after the season closes. I am told that prospects for the next autumn's pheasant season are good and prices may well stay down.

Pheasant stock
2 pheasant carcasses, chopped
plus any other bones and trimmings, from rabbit, for example
1 onion
1 carrot
1 celery stalk
2 bay leaves
2 or 3 ripe tomatoes
6 or 8 parsley stalks
bay leaf

6 peppercorns
3 cloves
twist of orange zest

Brown the bones in a hot oven or large heavy saucepan. Quarter the onion, leaving on the inner brown skin. Peel, wash and trim the rest of the vegetables as appropriate, and slice them. Put all the ingredients in with the bones, cover with water, and bring slowly to the boil. Skim off the grey foam that rises to the surface, partially cover the pan, and cook on the lowest possible heat for three to four hours. Do not let the stock boil as this makes it cloudy. Skim off the foam from time to time. Carefully strain the stock through a fine sieve into a bowl, cover and cool as quickly as possible; then refrigerate. Once the fat has solidified it can easily be taken off the surface. For a clearer stock, strain it through a sieve lined with scalded muslin.

Pheasant consommé
This is a clear liquid, dark amber-coloured from the onion skin and the browning of the bones, with a deep flavour obtained by cooking fresh pheasant and vegetables in

the stock before clarifying it. It makes an excellent starter, served with *croûtons* or toast. Chicken and beef consommés are made in exactly the same way, the basic stock being used to cook fresh ingredients. Consommé is time consuming but worth it for special occasions.

1/2lb/230g fresh pheasant meat
1 small onion
1 carrot
1 celery stalk
1 bay leaf
2-3 parsley stalks
3pt/1.7l pheasant stock
1 egg white

Finely mince or shred the meat, and chop the peeled vegetables into very small pieces to enable maximum flavour to be extracted. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan, including the egg white, and heat gently, whisking continuously. As soon as the egg white has formed a foamy mass on the surface, lower the heat and simmer very gently for one and a half hours. Do not let the contents of the pan boil as the foam will break

up and cloud the stock. Place a scalded jelly bag or a sieve lined with scalded muslin over a bowl, and carefully pour the contents of the pan through it. The mass of now cooked egg white will be left in the muslin. Carefully pour the consommé through it once more into another bowl or saucepan, and any remaining impurities will be trapped in the foam. Season to taste, and use or cool and refrigerate. It will keep for two days.

Steamed stuffed pheasant breasts
(Serves 4)
Stuffing
4tbsp cooked rice, brown, white or wild
2tbsp chopped, peeled, seeded tomatoes
2tbsp grated apple
3oz/85g ricotta or sieved cottage cheese
salt
pepper
1tbsp finely chopped parsley
2tbsp cider
4 pheasant breasts
16 large lettuce leaves

1/4pt/140ml cider
apple peelings
1 bay leaf
sprig of sage

Mix the stuffing ingredients, and put to one side. Skin the pheasant breasts, and slit each one almost in half horizontally. Open out butterfly fashion and press flat. Using a non-stick frying pan, cook the meat for 30 seconds on each side over a high heat. Blanch the lettuce leaves, after removing the firm central ribs, by draping them over a colander and pouring boiling water over them. Pat dry on kitchen paper. Spoon the stuffing on to the pheasant breasts, and fold back into a neat pouch shape, closing the breast securely with halved cocktail sticks. Wrap each one in lettuce leaves, and place the parcels in a single layer in a steamer basket. Steam over the cider, apple peelings and herbs for about 15 minutes.

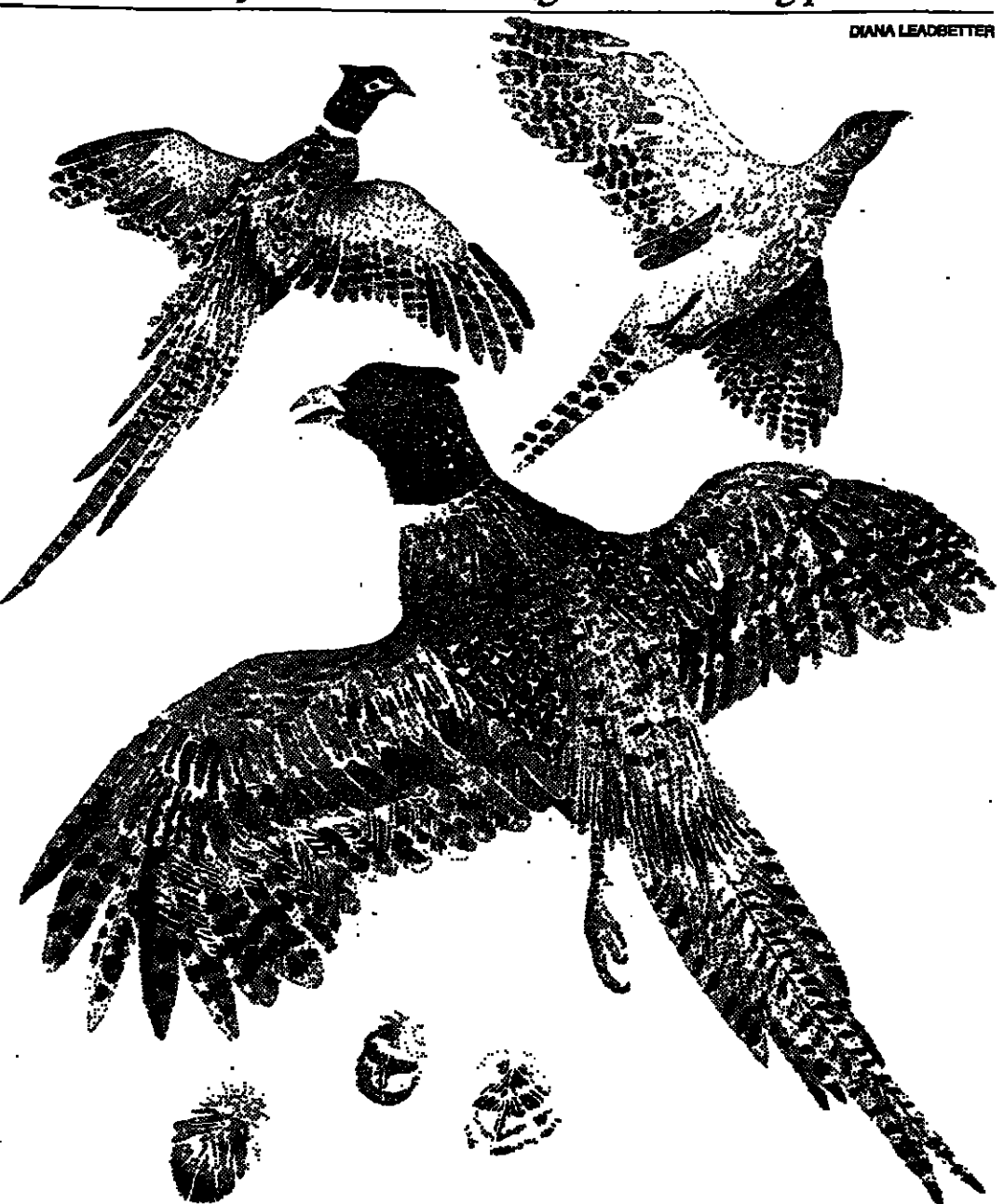
Pheasant and rabbit casserole
(serves 4 to 6)
4 pheasant legs
1lb/450g boneless rabbit or 1 1/2-2lb/680-900g rabbit portions
1tbsp olive oil
16 pickling onions, peeled
1/2lb/230g mushrooms, wiped
1/4pt/140ml dry red or white wine
1/4pt/140ml pheasant stock
1 bay leaf
1 sprig thyme
8 peppercorns
salt to taste

Remove the meat from the bone, and cut into even-sized pieces (or as near even as possible, given the particular shapes of muscle involved) and remove the sinews. Bones and sinew should go into the stockpot. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan, and fry the meat all over, a batch at a time, to the point where it just loses its raw colour. Transfer to a casserole. Fry the onions all over until just browning, to give the casserole a good colour. Add to the casserole. Fry the mushrooms, and then put them with the meat and onions. Deglaze the pan with wine, scraping up any residue stuck to the pan, add the stock, bring to the boil, and pour over the meat. Add the herbs and peppercorns, cover and cook over a low heat or in a slow oven until the meat is tender. Season to taste. Parsley and triangles of fried bread make a good garnish. If you want a slightly thicker and richer sauce, pour most of it off into a shallow saucepan and boil up to reduce it before pouring it back into the casserole. This should be done before adding any salt.

Something sharp and citrusy is just the right thing to serve after game dishes.

Sparkling citrus salad
Use a mixture of oranges, clementines, tangerines and pink-fleshed grapefruit. Peel the fruit, and slice it into a glass bowl. Sprinkle on a little icing sugar if you fear it is going to be too tart and add a drop or two of orange flower water, if you have it. Cover the fruit and chill for an hour or so. Just before serving, pour over the fruit a generous glass of champagne or good quality sparkling wine.

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DIANA LEADBETTER

FOOD

Separate the oats from the chaff

Porridge is our archetypal tucker, the neolithic breakfast. Britons have been eating porridge, and porridge made with oats at that, since the Iron Age. People who perform post-mortems on our ancient ancestors dug out of peat bogs discover that they had usually eaten a last meal of cereal-based porridge. It was enriched perhaps with animal fat or oil-bearing seeds, but it was porridge none the less.

It is the same stodge that modern people turn to in the hope of lowering cholesterol levels in their blood, and therefore the chance of heart disease. You do not have to believe claims that a bowl a day keeps the heart attack away (Scottish guggleguns have more than their fair share of heart attacks, in fact), but it is scientifically proven that the soluble fibre in oats and porridge does marginally reduce cholesterol. It can help control glucose and insulin levels for diabetics, too.

Mares eat oats and deers eat oats, and so do New York yuppies. Not content with porridge, they have been eating things formerly found only in horses' noses. Oat bran has been the trans-

cleaned, dehulled, softened with steam, and rolled flat) keep better because the heating destroys the enzymes which cause the deterioration.

The modern preference is for finely milled rolled oats, to make porridge as quickly as possible. The fact that it has the texture of wallpaper paste and the taste of putty does not seem to worry some people.

For those who cannot be bothered to stir their own, Marks & Spencer sells microwavable ready-made porridge (skimmed milk, rolled oats, cream and salt) at 55p a serving. Only 25p more buys a whole pack of Scott's Old Fashioned Porridge Oats - still the most satisfactory brand I have found - enough for 25 helpings.

The neolithic way is to sweeten porridge with honey. Others imitate Athol Brose (which is made with oatmeal, whisky and heather honey) - a brose is a sort of instant porridge made with raw oatmeal - by making porridge with whisky, melted demerara sugar and cream. The more dour way is to make it with water and salt.

What nobody now does is to serve porridge as it was originally used - as part of the main meal. The name comes from potage (French potage) - as in Esau's mess of potage.

So porridge was a thick soup, or a stodgy vegetable accompaniment to meat. A staple food during the Roman occupation of Britain was *pulmentum*, prepared from grains

The modern preference is for finely milled rolled oats. The fact that the porridge has the texture of wallpaper paste and the taste of putty does not seem to worry some people

roasted, pounded and cooked with water to make a porridge like Italian *polenta*. Into this could go oils, offal, seeds, stock, meat or fish.

Then came the medieval plum porridge, ancestor of Christmas pudding, which used beef broth, prunes and spices and, eventually, bread in place of oatmeal.

Porridge was important enough - and sloppy enough, too - to have a plate designed specifically for it, the porringer (a porridge bowl). And "porridge" as slang for imprisonment comes not from the food's role as a staple of prison diet (though prisoners' allowances still include 100g of rolled oats a week - enough for three or four bowls of porridge) but from its association with "stir", a word which came to mean "prison" because it sounded like the Roman word for gaol.

Porridge has also played a part in our history. In the Second World War, a Pole, Rygor Slowikowski, successfully gathered intelligence for the Allied invasion of North Africa in 1942 by setting up as a front a factory in Algiers which made oatmeal porridge.

If even that will not tempt you to a bowl, there are other ways to eat your oats. The one I would specially recommend is Stockan oat cakes, from the Orkneys, which are simply excellent with cheese.

Robin Young

DRINK

A good year, on second thoughts

Jane MacQuitty explains why the previously unpopular 1987 Bordeaux vintage is now the centre of attention

I have been a bit sniffy about the 1987 Bordeaux vintage. But with the drop in value of the pound against the French franc and rumours of a 20 per cent price increase for the promising '89 clarets, I shall have to start taking the vintage more seriously. It could be the last claret vintage for some time with celebrated *cru classé* wines available at approachable prices.

Many UK merchants, including Graham Chidgey of Laytons, agree. Chidgey was uncertain as to whether these tricky wines merited a re-launch, but after tasting 120 different '87s he felt confident enough about their quality to purchase a dozen. "I am convinced that for those who like the comfort of buying well-known names, the '87s are worth considering," he says.

John Radcliffe, an Oddbins buyer, says: "It was a much-needed light vintage, a relief from the high-priced Bordeaux vintages and some will even last a few years." That is, of course, if the Bordeaux merchants have any left to sell, for the quantities of 1987 claret produced were small.

Majestic Wine Warehouse tells the same story. Rodney Kearns, its buyer, managed to scoop up half a dozen or so worthwhile '87s before, as Majestic's literature puts it, "the French supermarkets leapt into their Christmas shopping spree". When Kearns went back for a second

helping the Bordelais were unable to supply the wines. There are signs, too, that UK merchants are competing among themselves for the '87 clarets: Laytons could not get hold of '87 Troplong-Mondet; Majestic still has 50 cases.

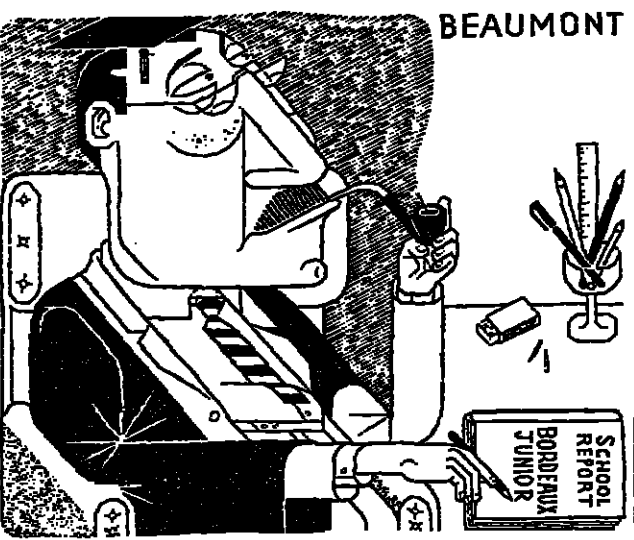
It was the weather in 1987 that caused all the problems. As I wrote in 1988, when the '87 clarets were first made available to wine drinkers, an uneven flowering followed by a dreary summer produced an uneven crop. Bordeaux 1987 prospects were already looking doubtful in August of that year, and when I visited the region again in late September, with the harvest already under way, the situation had not improved. British merchants made much at the time of the three-week stretch of September sunshine and while it did "save" the vintage, the monsoon-like rain that followed, diluting the quality and bringing rot, dashed earlier hopes.

Yet the difficult 1987 vintage was never viewed in the same light as the poor 1980 and 1984 vintages. Bordeaux 1987 was redeemed in everyone's eyes because most of the important right-bank châteaux in St Emilion and Pomerol, dominated by the early-maturing Merlot grape, had made wines of acceptable to good quality. This was because they had managed to pick before the rain which started in early October and continued through to early November. The later-matur-

ing Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grapes, growing on their left-bank Médoc stronghold, suffered more.

Once the grapes were picked and the wine made, selection was all that remained to redeem the '87s. By selecting the fullest, richest vats in their cellars and ignoring the diluted, watery quality of the later-picked "deluge" vats, the Bordelais could produce a good result. As usual, however, not every property was prepared to sacrifice quantity for quality. Notable examples of the many châteaux which did make the sacrifice are Château Margaux, which elevated only 40 per cent of its crop to the *grand vin*, and Pichon-Lalande with 50 per cent.

The first chance to analyze any Bordeaux vintage comes in the spring after the vintage, when the *assemblage*, or final blend, of grape varieties and vats has been made. I was unimpressed with the wines, mostly from left-bank properties, that I tasted at this stage, finding too many to be "light, thin, watery... and occasionally malodorous". The more honest test comes when the wines have been bottled and given a few months to settle. The first opportunity for me to evaluate the '87s like this came pre-Christmas last year when I was again mostly unimpressed with the left-bank wines.



Since then I have had a chance to think again about the '87s. This is certainly an early-maturing year, but the best Bordeaux '87s have got at least three to five years' life in front of them and if you want to drink some good claret over this period, while we wait for big years such as '82, '83, '85 and '86, then the message is clear: buy now while prices are reasonable and stocks available. The best '87s I have tasted are Cos d'Estournel (Laytons £11.50), with its rich, ripe, plummy character, and La Lagune (Laytons £11.02), whose smoky-cedary scent and rich, chocolatey, fleshy style are a splendid example of careful viticulture in difficult circumstances. Half a notch behind these two is Oddbins' delicious '87 Grand Pontet (£6.49), a St Emilion Grand Cru with a seductive, oriental spice-box scent and taste, overlaid with lots of ripe fruit.

On the next quality tier down are wines such as Château de Marbuzet, the Saint-Estèphe second wine of Cos d'Estournel (Laytons £7.76), whose luscious, perfumed, structured style has plenty of Cos's rich plum, cherry and blackcurrant-like fruit to justify its price. Graham Chidgey was right to want to snaffle up some of Troplong-Mondet's '87, a St Emilion Grand Cru, a scented, beefy wine whose rich, plummy palate has oodles of ripe Merlot fruit (Majestic Wine Warehouse £10.95). Grand Mayne (Oddbins £7.49), another St Emilion Grand Cru, is also worth buying for its rich, blackcurrant fruit is tempting and has a pleasing touch of smoke and oak about it. On the same level is the '87 Makaric-Lagravière from the Graves, whose firm, smoky-beefy scent and taste has plenty of spice and sandalwood-like scents (Oddbins £7.99).

The number of sales this month indicates that the wine trade had a less joyful festive season than it anticipated (Jane MacQuitty writes). Wine traders' worries are often wine drinkers' opportunities, however, and bargain hunters should be able to find some good New Year bottles. Treat ridiculously low prices with suspicion, though, as the wine trade, just like every other, often slips and drops in the hope of off-loading them on less knowledgeable customers.

Bargain hunters should visit Justerini & Brooks at 51 St James's Street, London SW1, which has lots of one-off binde bottles that are rapidly disappearing. Also look at the enticing unmixed cases sale which closes on February 2. I tasted a trio of superb white Burgundies. The finest was Jacques Dery's '86 Rally, La Channe (half bottles only, working out at £7.15 a bottle instead of £8.36), whose rich, full-flavoured, buttery, nutty style was reminiscent of the Côte d'Or, not the Côte Chamaissée. Bruno Clair's '86 Bourgogne Blanc has plenty of delicious, ripe, waxy-lemony fruit (£5.58 a bottle instead of £6.10). Look out, too, for the splendid, full, biscuity '85 Bourgogne Aligoté from Domaine Rollin, down to £5 a bottle from £5.95.

Claret devotees should try the '82s and '85s here, such as the fine magnum of '82 Beycheville, down from £20 to £18.33. The soft, elegant, spicy taste of Guy de Barjac's '84 Cornas is on sale at Bibendum for £6.99, which considerably undercuts the sale at Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1, continues until the middle of February.

Bottles for sale

Davison's cash-only sale closes on February 3, and offers 10 per cent off the entire range of clarets, from house Bordeaux Rouge (£2.57) to Haut Brion '66 (£99). Enjoy the rich, full, beefy-plummy fruit of the '82 Château de Barbe, a bargain Côte de Bourg claret at £3.59 instead of £3.99, and the firmer, sandalwood-like fruit of the '82 Château La Tour St Bonnet from the Médoc, priced at £4.49 instead of £4.99. Both make good, inexpensive winter drinking. Look out for Burgundy, Rhône and New World bargains at Tanners, 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, which has a sale until March 3. Also try the crisp, own-label Bordeaux Sauvignon (£2.89, not £3.32) and the '85 Moulou de la Rivière Médoc for £3.99, down from £4.99.

Le Nez Rouge's sale, at 12 Brewery Road, London N7 until January 31, includes one or two stars, mostly Burgundy. Or try Peter Sichel's fine white and red '86 Sirins from Bordeaux, both of which have fetched out handsomely since arriving in the UK. LNR's sale price of £4.22 a bottle looks good compared with Threshers' £4.99. Finally, don't forget the Victoria Wine Company's Vin de Pays de l'Uzège, a soft, ripe winter red priced at £2.39 a litre, down from £2.99, and Threshers' well-made, biscuity Bricourt Carte Noir champagne for just £9.99 a bottle. With champagne price increases up to 14 per cent en route, this looks a steal.

diving into at any time, but especially now. Try Ferraton's fine '85 Crozes Hermitage, La Matinière, whose deep purple colour and plummy-spicy Rhône fruit is a good buy (£5 instead of £5.40). Clape's '87 Cornas which is £11.49 at Oddbins is £14 here, but there are several vintages of Guigal's glorious Côte Rôtie and Brunier's fine Vieux Télégraphe.

Conney & Barrow's sale, at 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, until February 2, is not a patch on last year's. I am not certain that anything in it is a bargain, except perhaps Taittinger's finest fizz, '81 Comtes de Champagne (£35.99). I have news for Conney's: the appetizing '82 Latour St Bonnet is available at Davison's for £4.49, compared with Conney's steep £5.15.

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Trevor Beeson on a gifted churchman

Bishop and the showman

John Peart-Binns, the author of several episcopal biographies, presents the Anglican mind with something of a problem. There is a venerable tradition that interesting bishops — a declining breed — are turned over post-mortem to a scholarly friend, who, after some years of careful research, produces an elegant biography. A number of classics have emerged this way, and within the next few years we shall have Edward Carpenter on Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher, and Owen Chadwick on Archbishop Michael Ramsey.

But the Peart-Binns approach is different. For one thing, some of his subjects are still alive. Examination of their careers provides him with an opportunity to grind some of his own axes, and his style of writing is by no means elegant. The result is close to that of the ephemeral political biography knocked together by a lobby correspondent in a parliamentary recess.

The subject this time happens to be one of the most interesting and effective bishops of the last 50 years. He was born into a famous and wealthy Jewish family, suddenly converted to Christianity while a schoolboy at Rugby, fought against the Japanese during the war, took a First in theology at Oxford, was a curate in Newcastle upon Tyne, taught theology at Cambridge, became Vicar of the University Church, was raised to the episcopate as Bishop of Kingston upon Thames, and completed his formal ministry as a notable Bishop of Birmingham.

In each of these spheres he exercised a combination of gifts that must owe much to his Jewish roots — a fine intellect, deep moral passion, concern for people, especially the neglected and the despoised, and a burning desire to succeed. Allied to all this is an unusually wide range of interests, and a prophetic perception of important issues not yet on the agenda of either church or state. Hence his highly skilled involvement in environmental matters, which caused many to dismiss him as a crank, but won the praise of Arthur Koestler and U Thant.

All this Peart-Binns faithfully chronicles, drawing heavily on Montefiore's own material and memories, and on the testimonials of other bishops and friends. What degree of objectivity can be attached to the picture that emerges is obviously open to question, but the portrait is certainly recognizable, and as attractive as it deserves to be. A number of warts are also visible. There is an obsessive

element in Montefiore's character; beneath the extrovert showman there appears to be a depressive who is vulnerable to pain and rejection; although highly disciplined in the spiritual life, his restless energy has sometimes brought him to the edge of a breakdown; the present Archbishop of Canterbury values him greatly, but has doubts about his judgement.

The most interesting section of the book for lovers of ecclesiastical intrigue deals with Montefiore's translation from Cambridge to the episcopal bench. His ministry at Great St Mary's was widely recognized as outstandingly good, and it seemed natural that he should follow his predecessors, Mervyn Stockwood and Joseph Fison, to a diocesan bishopric. But in 1967 he took time off to address the Modern Churchmen's Union on the subject of the character of Jesus, and astonished both his audience in Oxford and the wider world by suggesting that the Son of God might have been a homosexual. This, to the surprise of no one but

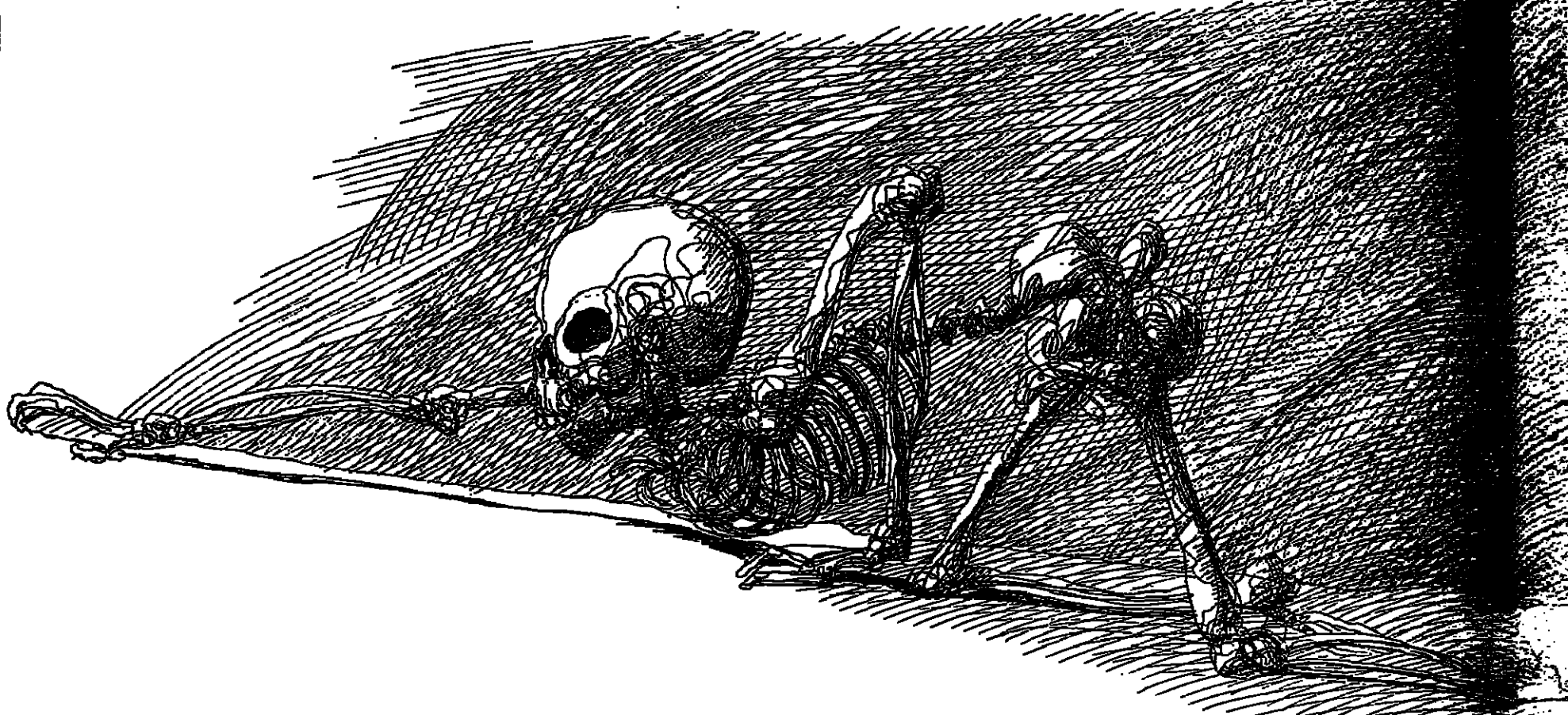
the lecturer, caused offence to those whose view of the humanity of Jesus excluded any form of sexuality, and to those

who believed that homosexuality is always sinful. The storm eventually subsided, but the memory of it remained with the Crown's advisers in Downing Street, who let it be known privately that Montefiore's name was no longer on the list of potential diocesan bishops.

Grave concern about his future began to be felt, and it took a certain amount of cloak and dagger work to secure his appointment as suffragan bishop of Kingston upon Thames; the diocese of Southwark greatly valued its consequences. Seven years later, by which time Montefiore was becoming bored with his subordinate role in South London, the diocese of Birmingham fell vacant. The selection of diocesan bishops was now in the hands of a commission of churchmen, and Montefiore's name was at the head of the list. Some MPs and Birmingham newspapers created a fuss, but he went to the bishopric all the same, and both he and Birmingham lived happily ever after.

His retirement in 1987 proved to be no more than the clearing of the way for a new burst of activity in support of a multitude of causes in most parts of the world, and it now seems more than likely that he will be the only modern bishop to require a two-volume biography. Peart-Binns doubtless has his word processor at the ready.

BISHOP HUGH MONTEFIORE
By John S. Peart-Binns
Quartet, £18.50



Desert island drop-outs

The rigours of abandonment, whether voluntary or otherwise, lend a far darker side to the jovial castaways of popular imagination, as Fiona MacCarthy discovers

W e all have our desert islands of the mind, and they are mostly balmy places of sand, palms, and gentle pleasures; an oceanic version of Torquay. Leslie proves that desert islands are more likely to be barren and devastating landscapes where maroons can all too easily be turned to *maroons* *glacés*, and where people can be driven to the lengths of the Dutch mariner who disinterred the corpse of a dead shipmate so that he could make a canoe out of the coffin. Very horrid, very real.

Leslie's theme is desperation. His book is a collection of case histories of people abandoned far from civilization, on their own. He sets out to examine their instincts for survival, and the aptitude with which maroons become marauders. Maroons behave in ways that are both more and less than human. Leslie's narrative at times is deliberately grim, a challenge to the jovial view of castaways descending from *The Swiss Family Robinson* to *Desert Island Discs*, where the selection of records for survival confirms all one's worst fears about British lack of judgement. The music that gets played is the familiar, the emotive, whereas

desert islanders are in reality estranged.

It could happen to anyone. The random quality of much of the marooning Leslie describes is striking. He comments on how large a proportion of male corpses fished out of Chesapeake Bay have their flies open. Most castaways have their metaphorical flies open: otherwise preoccupied, they are completely unprepared. At least Alexander Selkirk, the most famous of maroons, Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, was landed with a sea chest. The anonymous 17th-century "poor Englishman" cast away precariously on to a tiny island off the coast of Scotland, little more than a boulder in the icy north Atlantic, had just one small knife with him, till a sea-bird swooped and stole it.

Marooning was seen as a suitable punishment for sexual transgression in the picturesque sense of privation for indulgence, harsh scenes instead of softness. Abandonment was the band of pirates by whom he had been captured. Leslie denies completely the con-

noblewoman, took a lover on shipboard, and was ejected by her outraged cousin, who left her on an island lying off Quebec. She has recently been claimed as a feminist heroine: in Leslie's account she certainly comes over as an engaging and resourceful figure, the Calamity Jane of the Isle of Spirits. In one day she shot three bears: one of them, according to a contemporary chronicler, as "white as an egg".

The most sympathetic castaways are self-marooners, choosing their own exile, even sometimes entreating their fellows to desert them. Better the distant island than the horrors that you know. Philip Ashton, in the 18th century, preferred the solitary rigours of life on Roatan Island to the bloodthirsty bullying within the band of pirates by whom he had been captured. Leslie denies completely the con-

DESPERATE JOURNEYS, ABANDONED SOULS
By Edward Leslie
Macmillan, £18.95

cept of the pirate as the playful, slightly ribald, fiery-bearded glamour figure. So much for Errol Flynn. Ashton's story emphasizes that all too capable of chopping off a captive's lips and boiling them before him.

It is tempting to see some of these self-induced maroonings arising from a sense of personal deficiency. We all know those explorers who set out on torrid journeys to create themselves a larger, more attractive personality. Leslie does not pursue as seriously as one wants him to the intellectual cult of the wild: the rather pseudish self-maroonings of American and English 19th-century new life. We need more on Thoreau, Carpenter, naturism, sandals, plus-fours, beads, noble savages, free love, and little huts. The castaway cult of mind is not too sensitive. Once again those with nice natures are at a dis-

advantage. Victory goes to self-reliant people with the tedious ingenuity to notice that solitary whiskers are "stiff enough to shake toothpickers (sic)". Leslie points to a pattern of insubstantial in those who seek maroonment and most easily survive it. Bad-tempered cooks are best at making stews; fastidiously fastidious people are faster at the moment of eating, and people, dead or — if you must — alive.

This book is highly interesting if a little ghoulish, on how people deal with human flesh. Consensus of opinion seems to be to wash it in salt water, dry it in the sun and eat it thinly. The result reminds one vividly of, well, pastrami. Leslie's chapters on the cannibals force one again to ponder the law of the desert: if one absolutely had to, which of one's acquaintances would one choose first to eat? There is no doubt at all that maroonment transforms people: it alters people physically. Selkirk on his island, a food-faddist's paradise, with no salt, alcohol, or tobacco in his intake, discovered he could



Red flag day: "If we can't stop the train, there'll be a real live accident!"

Refurbishment of a period piece

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

By E. Nesbit
Illustrated by Pamela Kay
Heinemann, £10.95

There has always been something unappealing about the term "children's classics". It carries with it a sense of dull worthiness, and summons up an image of those uniformly manufactured series from which school prizes used to be selected.

Of late, however, there has been a welcome renewal of attempts to restore to those old sagas a little of the individuality that they may have had when they first appeared — new books having to make their way in the world alongside dozens of competitors. *Black Beauty*, illustrated by Charles Keeping (Gollancz), has been transformed out of all knowledge; the recent new edition of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *A Little Princess*, illustrated by Graham Rust (Michael Joseph), gives back to the book an Edwardian lushness.

So too with this new edition of *The Railway Children*. Published as a dignified small quarto (9 1/2 x 7 inches), handsomely printed, and illustrated with elegant line drawings and with 17 freshly-minted colour-plates, the book is a pleasure to own. What's more,

though, this care over its production has the effect of lifting E. Nesbit's touching, intimate story out of its place as a period piece, and making it an experience decidedly more satisfying than much of the very un-classic fiction by today's children's novelists.

Admittedly the story has gained current popularity through its cinematic adaptations. But those films cannot give you the heart of the thing, which is E. Nesbit's storytelling voice — and now, thanks to the editorial skills of Neil Philip, who has prepared this new edition, we can hear that voice more exactly than in many of the cheaper, casually edited "series" productions of earlier times.

Ours later to reason

William Jackson

DECISIVE FACTORS IN TWENTY GREAT BATTLES OF THE WORLD
By William Seymour
Sidgwick & Jackson, £16.95

When the hurly-burly's done, When the battle's lost and won, William Seymour, direct descendant of the Seymours of Shakespeare's day, tries to assess why battles are, in fact, lost and won by telling the stories of 20 great battles in world history. Unlike the Light Brigade at Balaklava, his is to reason why.

His choice of battles stretches from Zama in 202BC, when Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Second Punic War and destroyed the power of Carthage, to Dien Bien Phu in 1954, which was equally fatal to the French empire in Indo-China. His vignettes of each battle are set within the strategic and political context of the day, and are lightly written, enjoyable to read, and informative.

Perhaps the most interesting are his sketches of the less studied battles: Manzikert in 1071, which started the fatal decline of Byzantium, lost through treachery and faulty intelligence; Saladin's decisive victory over the Crusaders at Hattin in 1187, won through the Christians' internal envy, distrust, and downright malevolence; the Alma — a soldiers' battle — at the beginning of the Crimean War in 1854, won by the uninspiring Lord Raglan and lost by the incompetent Prince Menshikov; and Isandlwana, lost by the British in 1879, when the Zulu chief Cetshwayo's impi surprised and over-ran the over-confident Lord Chelmsford's base camp, massacring 1,329 British soldiers at a cost of more than 2,000 of his own Zulus.

Seymour's neat summaries of the reasons why at the end of each chapter are perceptive and convincing: Hastings in 1066, and Bosworth in 1485, lost and won by random coincidence of events beyond either commander's control; Naseby in 1645, Leuthen in 1757, and Tannenberg in 1914, won by

superior military competence; Saratoga in 1777, and three battles in the American Civil War, 1861-65, lost through political interference; Borodino in 1812, and Ligay and Waterloo in 1815, mismanaged by Napoleon through failing vitality; and Chancellorsville in 1863, and Warsaw in 1920, lost by leading from behind.

choice of battles which reflects the limits of his thinking. The trouble seems to stem from his apparent lack of awareness of the accepted list of the principles of war that has



Battle royal: the death of Richard III, killed at Bosworth Field in 1485

Bad old days of Good Queen Bess

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey

TRUST AND TREASON
By Margaret Birkhead
The Bodley Head, £12.95

The Woodfall family, in the year of the accession of the young Queen Elizabeth I, could not have known that the occasion of the happy marriage of Lewis, twin son of Sir Herbert Woodfall, would lead to the virtual obliteration of the Woodfalls in the next 30 years. *Trust and Treason* has won the prize in memory of George Heyer, and Birkhead (whose first novel this is) is an exciting new talent in the field.

The three Woodfall sons, Thomas the heir, and twins Lewis and Edward, part company at the wedding. Thomas and Edward become involved in a quarrel over Rosamond Emory, the local *femme fatale*. A family feud has begun, which festers for years.

Thomas marries a domineering shrew, and has only a daughter to succeed him — yet he has an illegitimate son, Robert, by Rosamond Emory, the result of a brief encounter at court, where she is one of Queen Elizabeth's ladies. This is no romantic tale of the days of Good Queen Bess. The queen plays quite a large part in the book, apparently capricious and

cruel, but engaged in the great game of statecraft, sometimes against her inclinations to mercy. The narrative is divided between the Woodfalls in the country and the fate of Robert, at the age of five a victim of what is intended to be a contract killing. But he is destined for another fate — to be a child recruited for Sir Francis Walsingham's secret service.

Trained as a spy and expert interrogator, Robert has no recollection of family, or experience of love. The honors he has witnessed (and occasionally performed) have made him efficient, able, and icily cold towards the world. Even so, he manages to save two members of the Woodfall family from the fate handed out to

most of them; and, with the help of his queen, he joins the service of Cecil rather than that of Walsingham. There is a future for Robert. I hope Birkhead will provide him with one.

● *The Queen's Secret*, by Jean Plaidy (Robert Hale, £12.95). Katherine is the daughter of a mad king of France and a genuinely wicked queen. She is brought up in poverty and neglect, although her elder sister marries a king of England. Katherine finds herself, as part of a peace treaty, married off to yet another English king — Henry V. A short marriage produces an heir, but the widowed queen is lonely and sad. She marries (probably) her Groom of the Bedchamber, an attractive Welshman called Owen Tudor, and thereby hangs a dynasty.

● *The Gate at the End of the World*, by Philip Glazebrook (Collins Harvill, £12.95). Cheers for a sequel to the hilarious *Captain Vinegar's Commission*, in which Tresham Pitcher, a young Victorian, decides that, as he wishes to travel, he must re-invent himself as

Captain Vinegar. The second volume takes the captain to the Caucasus, to Constantinople, and to a failed love. Funny, charming, and erudite.

● *The Thirteen Gun Salute*, by Patrick O'Brian (Collins, £11.95). In his latest adventure, Captain Jack Aubrey has some odd instructions: a secret mission to the Far East to get a treaty from a Malay sultan ahead of the French. With him goes Dr Stephen Maturin who has an almost Arcadian vision of rare animals and plants. This is an exciting tale, leaving a wreck on an uncharted reef in the China Seas for the captain to deal with next.

● *Geatsong*, by Tom Holt (Macmillan, £12.95). Eupolis always knew he would be a writer of comedies. Pericles is building the Parthenon, Sophocles, Euripides, and Socrates are scribbling. Eupolis has no very high regard for any of them. He has, in fact, no high regard for anyone or anything, particularly the operation of democracy. He is married to a beautiful terrier, but as a writer he is very successful; and these are his highly entertaining memoirs.

Either too young

The subject of this captivating book is not (thank heavens) Everyday Life in Ancient Greece, but something far more interesting: how ancient Greeks viewed the life-cycle, from conception and pregnancy, through childbirth, growing up and coming of age, to early adulthood and old age.

I hear an immediate objection: what about middle age? The astonishing truth, Garland argues, is that Greeks did not appear to have it. At 29 a Greek became *presbutes*, and at 59, *geron*. He backs this up with a delightful fable by Babrius (c. 2nd century AD), about one of the very few

middle-aged men in Greek literature (Garland cannot find any women at all). This fellow was still behaving like a young man, carousing and having wild affairs, and was currently sleeping with two women, one very young and one very old. The young one extracted all his grey hairs, the old one all his black hairs, with the result that he was soon as bald as an egg.

"Middle age", in other words, is not a concept Greeks understood in the way that we do, although Hippocrates, the doctor, divided life into seven stages, the final age being 41 to 48 (which may tell us something about Greek life expect-

tancy), and Solon, the philosopher-statesman, divided life into 10 stages, each stage a seven-year unit (there is something magical about the number seven), and identified the seventh and eighth stages as the time when intellect and power of speech were at their height.

The Greeks, rather than the Romans, give the impression that their surviving literature that childhood is merely a preparatory stage for adulthood, and of no interest

For the love of men and writing

Christina Stead would have been disappointed by her popularity among feminists.

Julia Briggs on an intriguing but flawed biography

CHRISTINA STEAD: A LIFE OF LETTERS
By Chris Williams
Virago, £11.95

It is one of life's little ironies that the writings of Christina Stead, who had no time for feminism in any form, are now on sale between Virago's familiar, dark green covers. Chris Williams, in her new biography, observes unsmilingly: "Although at first surprised by the use of the name Virago by a publisher, Christina was happy to be republished so that her work was readily available to the public."

In 1936 Stead had written: "I only want one thing. I thirst to do something so good that there will be no denying it on anyone's part." That her reputation was established primarily by feminist critics, whose aims and beliefs were so antipathetic to her own, would surely have annoyed and disappointed her.

Yet despite a lifetime's commitment to the joys of heterosexual love ("I am a believer in love. That's really my religion"), many of Stead's most formative experiences and much of her sense of social relationship take the form of covert criticisms of patriarchy. Like Virginia Woolf (whose work she did not care for), she was brought up by an intellectually and emotionally overbearing father, exposing his oppression in her best-known novel, *The Man Who Loved Children* (1940).

Escaping from him and from suburban Sydney, and discovering herself, her sexuality and her need to write, were decisive experiences; exile and rootlessness became the conditions of her adult life, conditions that she willingly accepted because they gave her a necessary distance on any society that she encountered.

She spent her most productive years moving from London to Paris to New York and New Jersey, and then back again to France, Switzerland, Italy and England. Though she loved the good things of life — good clothes, concerts, restaurants

— she accepted hardship and poverty without complaint, being primarily concerned with writing well. What made a life of homelessness tolerable was her long partnership with William Blech, whom she met within a week of her arrival in London, when she took a job as his secretary. Blech was that rare thing, a Marxist banker; a cultivated European, his sophistication complemented her inexperience; and he encouraged her to write. Her wandering way of life was made possible by the security of their relationship: where "Bill" was, was home for her. Only after his death did she return to Australia, and by then her writing days were over.

"Writing is creative, loving is creative. It's exactly the same," she declared, yet in her view love was something that women could or should only feel for men. She did not form close lifelong friendships with women and she felt distaste for lesbians, distinguishing them sharply from "ordinary" women.

Her most intense relationships were all with men, and after Blech's death, she seemed to need men's attention particularly, as if to validate her existence to herself. It was perhaps this need that enabled her to analyse so perceptively the painful battles that independent young women fought out with their fathers or lovers. Yet though her representation of these conflicts and her criticisms of western society were generally clear-sighted, she never perceived the underlying structural problems of the relationship between men and women, problems which constitute the case for feminism. Blech's unfailing love and support may have helped to disguise them from her.

"A number of people... have written to me to say would I write my autobiography, and I always write back and say I have written it." The point is endorsed by those who knew her — her stepdaughter even accused her of "preying" upon those around her, as if she lacked the inventiveness to create characters from nothing. It follows that the ideal biography would also be a close reading of her fiction. Chris Williams has been trained as a journalist rather than as a literary critic, and while she has painstakingly assembled quotations from reviews of Stead's work, reminiscences and letters, the portrait she draws lacks depth. Though she draws extensively on the fiction, there is little attempt to place it in its literary context, or to explain why it seemed so iconoclastic when it first appeared.

Nor has Williams solved the first problem of the biographer, whether to follow a strict chronology or to pursue particular themes, with the result that her narrative is not always easy to follow. But there are compensatingly long quotations from Stead's letters, and for those who want to know more about this intriguing, enigmatic writer, *A Life of Letters* will be indispensable.



Writer in exile: Christina Stead, who declared firmly, "I am a believer in love. That is really my religion"

White is might?

FICTION

Tania Glyde

A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT
By Christopher Hope
Minerva, £3.99

The hero of Christopher Hope's first novel, set in provincial South Africa, is Harry Moto, who from his name down to his toes is slightly off-line. His hair is crinkly and he tans rather too easily for local comfort. All in all, Harry is designed to be a parody of everything that is not quite it in South African society, or any society for that matter.

Up to the age of 16 these taints are no more than jokes. But on turning this magic age, Harry must get an identity card with a big W, for white, stamped on it. This involves taking the family tree down to the police station, something Harry's father never quite gets round to doing. Whether any of Harry's female ancestors was actually jumped by the garden boy is never revealed, but after he is caught in a harmless bout of adolescent grappling at a party, his life is never the same again. Smoked out by his parents' shame, Harry's life becomes a descending spiral of running for an Indian tailor, selling skin-lightening cream for a Jewish quack, and getting taken by a black crook called Koosie. Harry, a minority of one, is stomped on by every other minority he falls in with.

Hope's scapegoat may be worthy, but nobody else really comes to life. This book could be satirical for the composite nature of its hero, but here, apart from a few quite well enough as its own court jester, it does not need any further embellishment. And Hope really cannot seem to decide on a style of writing. He talks about "that small-time visionary, Arthur Smee's", trying to give his characters a colloquial shove, and his own narrative some kind of matey intimacy with the reader. But it does not work. The people in the book are not well-defined enough, and his love of near-sexual description does not fit in with the kind of all-singing, all-dancing satire that would really drive his point home.

After an unpromisingly pompous introduction (which staggers under the portentous title, "Tragedy and Utopia"), Ignatieff warns up with a lively commentary on King Lear, whom he presents as a paradigm of self-inflicted social isolation. Filling out some nicely drawn, if rather over-written, arguments about the conflict between the need for social solidarity and personal freedom, he then proceeds on to St Augustine. Some less-than-clear arguments about free will and the good seem to resolve themselves into an elaboration of Ignatieff's recurrent theme: that the heritage of the Enlightenment is existential loneliness which leaves a vacuum in social relations.

This is not a new argument, of course, but Ignatieff treats it interestingly, with, if anything, a bit too much straining for originality of references (e.g. King Lear), and not enough full development of his final conclusion. Clearly he wants to say more than the now pedestrian observation that we have traded communality for materialism, and spirituality for psychoanalysis.

Lost for words

Janet Daley

THE NEEDS OF STRANGERS

By Michael Ignatieff
Hogarth Press, £6.95

THROUGH BROWN EYES

By Prafulla Mohanti
Penguin, £3.99

What he wishes to add is pursued through Rousseau and Hume, Adam Smith and, inevitably, Marx. The crux of this position, that "the history of progress is therefore the story of man exchanging natural alienation for social alienation, a battle with his fellows in place of a battle with the natural world", is put into its contemporary context as the choice between collectivism, whose offer of social solidarity is dubious anyway, and individual liberty, whose price is alienation.

This dilemma, he suggests, is at the heart of most modern political debate. Again, this is a demonstrably true but less than original point.

Ignatieff's comments about the inevitable stagnation of a totalitarian collectivist economy were, of course, written before the tumultuous recent events in Eastern Europe, and they now have an eerie ring. But it is in his closing chapter that Ignatieff hints at a more innovative thesis. When he says "the partition of sovereignties and obligations tacitly implied in the classical language of republican politics is no longer possible for us", he hints at an intriguing notion that our political vocabulary, still virtually unchanged since the 18th and 19th centuries, is seriously out of phase with our experience.

Unfortunately, he follows this modest statement with typical rhetorical hyperbole: "We have inherited a language of political allegiance which no longer speaks

for the needs we have, not as citizens, but as members of a common species." This kind of prose, which North American lecturers use to thrill their undergraduates, detracts from what with more precision could have been a stronger case. When he states the problem carefully, Ignatieff is clearly on to something: "Our task is to find the language for our need for belonging which is not just a way of expressing nostalgia, fear and estrangement from modernity... In the post-Marxist era, we shall need a whole new conceptual vocabulary to transform our political frame of reference."

Prafulla Mohanti's *Through Brown Eyes* is not, as its blurb seems to suggest, simply a relentless catalogue of racial prejudice as encountered by an Indian in Britain. Rather it is a touching and very readable account of the breakdown of communications between cultures. Lack of a common understanding of humanity reverberates through Mohanti's tale of disillusionment and ultimate alienation. It makes a poignant complement to Ignatieff's academic discussion.

QUICK LIST

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books this week:
Beyond the Frozen Sea. Visions of Antarctica, by Edwin Mickleburgh (Paladin, £4.99) Front line for saving existence of the planet.
The Great Divide. Second Thoughts on the American Dream, by Studs Terkel (Headline, £4.99) Old pro's prose oral history.
John Clare. Selected Letters, edited by Mark Storey (Oxford, £8.95) Letters & Memoirs series.
Just Relations and Kisses of the Enemy. by Rodney Hall (Faber, £5.99 each) Novel/Oz novelist.
Prince Isidore. by Harold Acton, illustrated by Feliks Topolski (Robin Clark, £4.95) Adult fairy story.
A Small Sound of the Trumpet. Women in Medieval Life, by Margaret Wade Labarge (Hamish Hamilton, £9.99)
The Revolt of Aphrodite. by Lawrence Durrell (Faber, £7.99) Tudor England, by John Guy (Oxford, £5.95) Def source.

Greed and survival on an American campus

CRIME

Lisanne Radice

A TRAP FOR FOOLS

By Amanda Cross
Virago, £4.99

CHILDREN'S GAMES

By Janet Le Pierre
Virago, £4.99

When the body of Canfield Adams, much hated professor of Middle Eastern culture, is found on the pavement seven storeys below his office, Kate Fansler, professor of English and amateur detective, is, surprisingly, asked by the university administration to look into his death. This acute study of the convoluted intricacies of university politics is Amanda Cross at her best.

It soon becomes clear that Adams was an unlikely suicide, and that there was no shortage of people who would dearly have loved to push him. But the administration want to stop the chief police suspect, a highly regarded black lecturer, being charged in case it causes social tension. This, they claim, is the reason for Kate's promotion to special sleuth. But is this a set-up? And if so, what are the reasons for her sudden popularity?

Amanda Cross writes in her usual elegantly spare and absorbing manner — so much so that the reader can easily forgive her some weakness of plot. But *A Trap for Fools* is more than a highly satisfying puzzle. It also deals with two serious themes, carefully interwoven into the fabric of the story. The first is the way in which

women academics are marginalized on university campuses. Kate sees herself as someone who has continually to prove herself to her predominantly male colleagues, if only to gain some acceptance of her own worth in a hostile environment. She feels engaged in an unceasing struggle, part of an oppressed minority fighting for survival.

The second theme, on which the plot partly hinges, is the way greed has taken over from scholarship in the modern American campus. Both undercurrents provide a powerful background to the solution.

Virago is to be congratulated on the addition of Janet Le Pierre to its crime fiction list. Here we have another mystery with a female

heroine. Meg Halloran, a teacher, also feels marginalized in a male dominated society. New to the neighbourhood, she is accused of the death of religious fanatic Dave Tucker, a student in her class. Her reputation at stake, and overwhelmed by abusive poison pen letters, Meg, helped by Police Chief Gutierrez, lives to find the murderer before she loses her job and her sanity. Her inquiries reveal strange and frightening secrets which nearly lead to the death of her own daughter.

Children's Games is less an intellectual puzzle and more an atmospheric suspense novel. The plot, in its final, untravelling form, begs certain questions, but the journey to the outcome has a robust force behind it. Vignettes of small town life, easily overblown by the less skilled, are here sketched with a delicate pen. The claustrophobic atmosphere of a frightened community is neatly balanced by the portrait of a tough, newly widowed heroine who is determined to persuade her new neighbours to reject the malicious rumours whispered about her.

Both Cross and Le Pierre also demonstrate that, as far as evil is concerned, equality of the sexes has already been achieved.

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Either too young or too old

Peter Jones

THE GREEK WAY OF LIFE

By Robert Garland
Duckworth, £24

It is not to say that Aristotle did not love their children (as we do). But conceivably the Greeks were of consid-

erable interest, socially as well as medically: a woman only become "sane" when she was married and had children.

As for old age itself, Garland argues that it was not automatically respected, especially in literate classical Athens, where the old were not the only available repository of ancient wisdom (the situation was different in illiterate Sparta).

Aristotle was especially nasty about the old: "Having lived for

many years and been deceived and made mistakes, and since most human affairs turn out badly, they are positive about nothing... they are always suspicious owing to mistrust... they are little-minded because they have been humbled by life..." (and so on).

No Greek state took responsibility for the welfare of the old (that was the family's job), but some did impose a legal duty on the children to look after their parents. In such circumstances, the lot of the spinster was regarded with particular loathing.

But the drawbacks of old age

could have advantages in some eyes. Plato thought the loss of sexual potency was amply compensated by increased rationality and virtue, and this attitude was so developed by the Stoics that the Roman Cato could declare "the nearer I get to death, the more I feel like someone eventually sighting land, who is about to anchor in a harbour after a long voyage".

This is a rich, varied, and ceaselessly interesting book, packed with delightfully assimilable information, and supported with full, but not daunting, notes — a credit to the noble Duckworth stable.

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2082/2083, 2084/2085, 2086/2087, 2088/2089, 2090/2091, 2092/2093, 2094/2095, 2096/2097, 2098/2099, 2100/2101, 2102/2103, 2104/2105, 2106/2107, 2108/210

WEEKEND WALK

CLARE ROBERTS

**Francesca
Greenoak comes
to the rescue with a
look at the latest
survival guides**

Caring for house plants: (left to right) String of Beads, *Senecio rowleyanus*; Crab Cactus, *Schlumbergera truncata*; Pickwick crocns with hazel catkins

HOUSE F

- **Will cause rot.** Try not to get water on the fleshy growth.
- **Use the** *compost mixture* in bulb pots dry out; keep it nicely moist (not waterlogged).
- **Start tubers** of begonias, achimenes and gloxinias into growth during the next couple of weeks. Water gently, and provide a background temperature of about 13°C.
- **Re-pot** fuchsia and geranium cuttings which have been brought through the winter. Pinch out the growing tips to promote bushiness.
- **Bring in** perennial plants such as verbasicum, foxglove and phayllis and plant in pots to flower early in the greenhouse or conservatory. Repaint outside after overwinters.

It is possible that highly illustrated leaflets reach an audience which would not be interested in books, even those with lots of pictures, but I feel bound to say that the *Masson's* is simply written and immensely informative. *Plated Houseplant Expert* includes about 1,000 plants, all illustrated in colour, costing £3.25 in paperback. The *RHS Encyclopaedia of House Plants* by Kenneth Beckett (Century, £19.95) is a masterpiece, introducing gardeners to 4,000 plants with 1,000 illustrations. The *Macdonald Encyclopaedia of House Plants*, a thoroughly useful handbook, by Italian origin, combines sound cultivation advice with an interesting selection of plants, all well illustrated (Macdonald paperback £9.95).

WEEK

- Take advantage of mild periods to do a half-hour's weeding whenever possible, working in a general organic fertilizer or blood, fish and bonemeal.
- Sow sweet peas in deep pots on window-sills or in greenhouses.

END-TIPS

- Begin taking cuttings of conifers.
- Sow radish, early carrots and lettuce in a cool greenhouse border or cold frame.
- Plant shallots if the soil is suitably workable.

[illegible]

**The Tarrant Valley, near
Blandford Forum, Dorset.
Nine miles**

church noted for its Easter
Sennelchre of about 1530.

From the church follow the path along the west bank of the stream, which is what the Tarrant has by now become. At a lane turn right to regain the valley road into Tarrant. Gunville with the parkland of Eastbury on the right, a gigantic Vanbrugh mansion mostly demolished by 1782.

The mild winter is a good reminder of the important climatic role of clouds. The effects of clouds are complicated. First, they scatter and reflect sunlight into space which has a cooling effect.

the global climate showed considerable differences in sensitivity to clouds and they could not agree that clouds would be likely to slow or accelerate any future warming.

Second, they are strong absorbers and re-emitters of the heat radiation from the earth's surface and so have a warming effect.

The balance of these effects depends not only on the height, thickness and particle properties of the cloud, but also on the time of year. Clouds generally have a warming effect in Britain in winter, and a cooling in summer. Satellite measurements show that clouds have a net cooling effect on the earth's climate. So a cloudier world would be a cooler one.

Current uncertainties include whether the amount of clouds at various levels will change and whether their composition will alter. Satellite measurements show that smoke and pollution can increase the amount of low cloud and change its properties. It has been estimated that a 15 to 20 per cent increase in low cloud would cancel out the predicted warming due to a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The UK Meteorological Office

There is some evidence that when the global climate has warmed up on occasions during this century, it has led to an increase in the amount of cloud. So this suggests that clouds could act to dampen down any future climatic warming. However, a recent

ice has found that changing the balance between ice crystals and water droplets has a dramatic effect. Increasing the proportion of tiny water droplets, which remain aloft for longer, more than halves the predicted warming due to a doubling of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

W. J. Burroughs

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THE TIMES *Which?* CONSUMER REPORT

Doing the dishes

Dishwashers can save time and money, but choose with care, Nicole Swengley advises

Most dishwashers perform well — at a price, says a report by the consumer magazine *Which?* They cope well with washing and drying crockery, cutlery and glassware but they are not as good at all tasks. Delicate china, glassware and some cutlery, for example, can be spoiled by the hot water and the special detergent, which is more aggressive than washing-up liquid. Pans may need to be soaked or re-washed by hand.

A dishwasher saves time as well as effort around three hours a week for a family of four. And it's ideal for doing lots of washing up at a time that suits you, the day after a party, for example. On the minus side, using a dishwasher costs more than washing up by hand — about £1.15 a week for a family of four, compared with around 50p a week for hand-washing. And it may be necessary to buy more crockery and cutlery since it is more economical to wait and use the machine when it is full.

Also, a dishwasher uses quite a lot of electricity, particularly on its hotter, more intensive programmes. Different models vary in how much electricity they use but only a few models tested by *Which?* have economy programmes which combine good wash performance with real savings in electricity.

They also vary in the amount of water they use — by up to 20 litres on a normal wash programme. A full-size dishwasher, which takes up to as much space as a front-loading washing machine, holds 12 or 14 place settings, so it is the obvious choice for the family or anyone who entertains regularly. If there is a problem with space, it may be possible to fit in a slim dishwasher. Some of the models tested by *Which?* are only 41cm or 45cm wide, instead of the standard 60cm, and take four or seven place settings.

Table-top machines take four or six place settings. They will stand on a work surface or draining board and can either be plumbed in or run from the taps. They may have fewer programmes and features than larger machines. In particular, they do not have built-in

water softeners, so if you have hard water, whitish spots may be left on some dishes.

● The full-size machines tested by *Which?* were the AEG Favorit 420 and 667, Ariston Aristella LS1054, ASEA Cylinda 1400, Candy 652W, Hotpoint Super Plus 7821, Indesit D320BG, Miele G572, Philips ADG662 and ADG664, Servis Starlet 4153 and Zanussi DW41.

● The slimline dishwashers tested were the Bosch SPS-5121 and Servis Secret Compact 4400.

● The table-top versions were the ASKO ASEA Cylinda 700 and the Bendix Table Top Compact 78868.

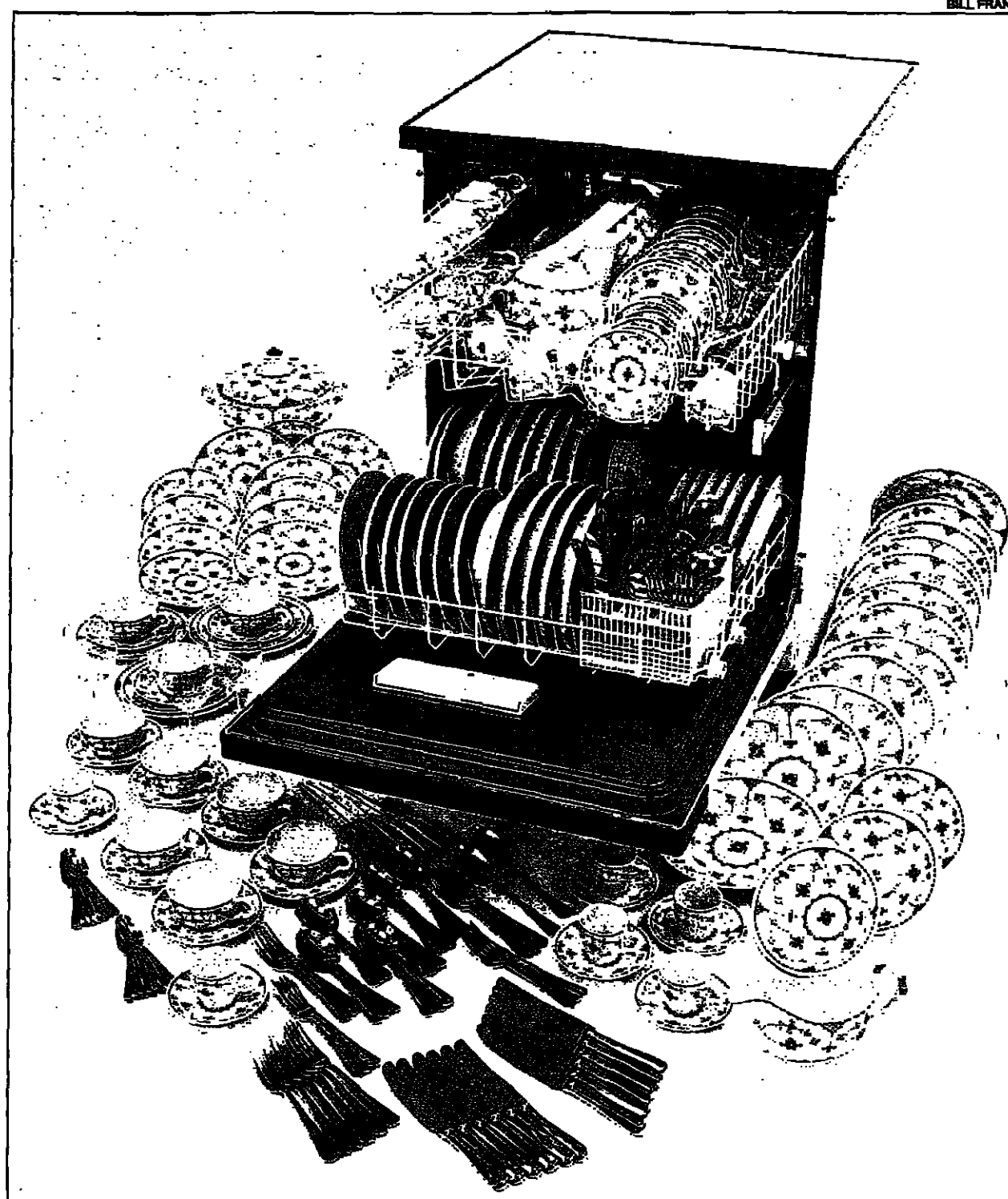
All but one of the full-size dishwashers was 85cm high (including the worktop) by 60cm wide by 60cm deep. The ASEA Cylinda 1400 is only 84cm high and 57cm deep. Depth includes space needed at the back of the machine for hoses but does not include any controls at the front. It is necessary to allow between 55cm and 65cm extra space at the front for opening the door (40cm for table-top models).

All the machines had a Normal programme and most had a Rinse & Hold option to help prevent food drying on items waiting to be washed, an Intensive Wash for pots and pans and heavily soiled items, a Slightly Soiled wash for things not needing much cleaning, and an Economy programme, though this may save time rather than money.

Less common were a Delicate Wash for china and glassware, and Plate Warm or Dry, which uses hot air to warm plates. Also, some machines had options for pre-washes, extra rinses, half-loads and drying without heat.

Each machine was tested at the highest temperature Normal programme with a full load of dirty dishes. Then, all the Economy options were tested unloaded to see if any of the machines saved a significant amount of electricity and/or water.

The crockery, cutlery and glassware was soiled with food which is particularly difficult to remove — egg yolk, porridge and spinach on the plates, tea in the cups and dried-on milk in the glasses. The dirty load was left in the machine overnight. After washing it the



BEST BUY: Indesit D320BG, £220, an inexpensive 12-place setting dishwasher. China, cutlery and glasses from Habitat

next day, the *Which?* testers assessed a range of items to see how clean and dry they were. Apart from one hot-and-cold fill machine, only cold water was used.

The tests showed that, on the whole, the Economy programmes do not wash as well as the Normal programmes. This is due to the lower wash temperature and/or shorter wash times which are responsible for the saving in electricity and/or water. Some makers say that their Economy programme is suitable only for lightly soiled dishes, which may explain some of the disappointing results.

Machines were also assessed for convenience of use, particularly opening and closing the door, using the baskets, dispensers and controls and cleaning the filter. Weights were applied to the doors to see how easily the machine would tip if, say, a child climbed on it.

A test for noise showed that none of the machines was particularly noisy, though the Servis Starlet 4153 was slightly noisier than the others. All the dishwashers provided

satisfactory as far as electrical safety is concerned. They also proved satisfactory in back-siphonage tests (to show whether dirty water was being drawn back into the mains water supply), or had the UK Water Fittings Bylaws Scheme approval.

Machines were also tested to see if they would flood a kitchen if there were problems such as a power cut, a jammed programmer, or an inlet valve sticking open. Early models of the Servis Secret Compact 4400 had no flood protection, but the manufacturer says current versions should be satisfactory.

NOTE: These articles are based on test reports in the November 1989 issue of *Which?* an independent monthly magazine available only on subscription. It tests and reports on a variety of services, including money, household appliances and other equipment, motoring, food and health and consumer rights. To find out more about *Which?* — including details of how you can get the magazine free for three months — please write to: Dept T, FREEPOST, Hertford SG14 1YB or telephone free on 0800 252 100.

BUYING GUIDE

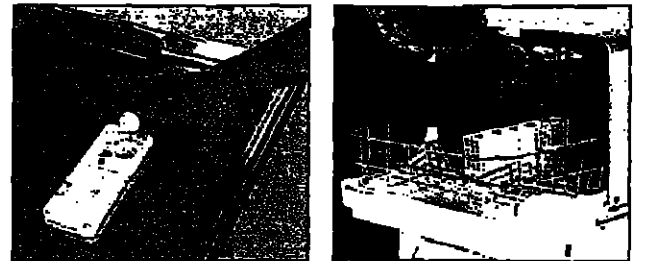
● **BEST BUY:** For a cheap, full-size, 12-place setting dishwasher that will wash and dry satisfactorily, *Which?* recommends the Indesit D320BG, £220.

● **GOOD VALUE:** For a slimline dishwasher, the Servis Secret Compact 4400, £220, takes four place settings and has a built-in or built-under/slide-out design. The Bosch SPS5121, £330, is more expensive but might be worth considering for its seven-place setting capacity.

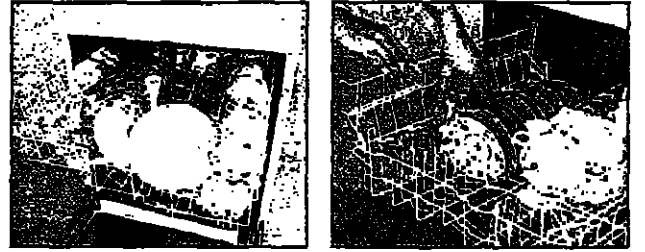
● If space makes a table-top machine the only option, *Which?* recommends the Bendix Table Top Compact 78868, £230, which takes four place settings. This model has been discontinued but some machines may still be available in the shops.

● The ASKO ASEA Cylinda 700, £345, offers a slightly better performance and takes six place settings, but is more expensive.

CHECK THESE IMPORTANT DETAILS



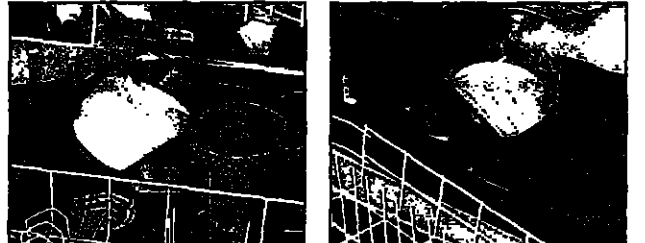
● The rinse-aid dispenser on the AEG Favorit 667 (left) is on the door and is easy to get at and fill. The dispenser on the Bendix Table Top Compact 78868 (right) is towards the back on the inside of the machine.



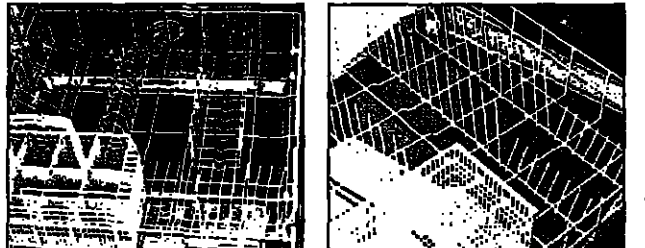
● The AEG Favorit 667 (left) is easy to load. The top basket on the Candy 652W (right) is more cramped on the left-hand side so glasses have to be loaded before saucers, and its hinge-up cup racks have to be lifted.



● The filter on the Servis Starlet 4153 (left) is in one place and easy to remove for cleaning. With the Zanussi DW41 (right), the spray arm has to be removed first, and the filter divides into several pieces for cleaning.



● The salt dispenser on the Miele G572 (left) can be reached easily and a funnel is provided. With the Indesit D320BG (right), the bottom basket has to be completely pulled out to reach the dispenser and no funnel is provided.



● The cutlery basket in the Miele G572 (left) can be lifted out easily. The one on the Indesit D320BG (right) has no handle.

OTHER THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

● Make sure the baskets slide in and out smoothly. The height of the top basket may be adjustable to let you fit in larger dinner plates below.
● Indicators that let you know when the rinse aid and salt dispensers are empty are useful.
● Regulators will set the water softener to suit the water hardness in your area and allow you to adjust the amount of rinse aid used in each wash so that you use the least necessary.

Toasters face the crunch

There's a host of different toasters. Which one for you?

Of the 37 toasters tested by *Which?* only about half came through unscathed a trial that simulated five years' use (Nicole Swengley writes). The most common faults were with the pop-up mechanism or element failure.

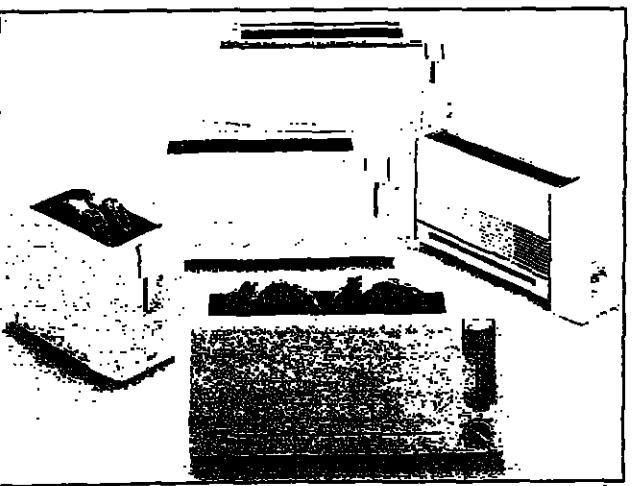
Models tested included:

● Two Slice/Long Slot toasters by Boots, Dateline, Haden, Kenwood, Krups, Morphy Richards, Philips, Rowena, Russell Hobbs, Swan, Tefal.
● Two Slice/Two-Slot: Boots, Braun, Cuckoo, Dualit, Hinar, Morphy Richards, Oster, Philips, Rowena, Russell Hobbs, Salton, Swan, Tefal.
● Four Slice: Frigidaire, Hinar, Oster, Philips, Rowena, Russell Hobbs, Salton, Swan, Tefal.
● Toast 'n' Grill: Tefal 8720.

All those tested could brown a single piece of bread on its own, and the two-slice models either had a slot for each slice of bread or a single long slot to take two slices at a time. The four-slice toasters had two long slots.

Two models differed significantly: the chunky, chrome Dualit with its 1950s styling and very wide body, and the Tefal Toast 'n' Grill, which was also large and had an integral grill section.

With all the two-slice, long-slot toasters and the four-slice Tefal 8446, the slot width changed automatically for bread of varying thickness.



Back: Rowenta TAO4. Centre, left to right: Boots 21, Boots Long Slot and Tefal 8437. Front: Swan Elegance 20436

BUYING GUIDE

One-slice toasters:

● **BEST BUY:** Boots Long Slot, £18; Swan Elegance 20436, £18, or similar Swan 20437, £18. The Tefal 8437, £20, or similar Tefal 8438, £18, also did well.

Two-slice toasters:

● **BEST BUY:** Boots 21, £18. The Braun HT50, £36, did very well but was expensive. The Hinar 129 Lifestyle, £14, and similar Hinar 123, £15, and the Rowenta TAO3, £17, also performed well and could take crumpets, but they were a bit slow. The Hinar 129 was hard to find in the shops.

Four-slice toasters:

● These were generally less convenient than the two-slice ones and most had surface temperatures considered a little too high. The Hinar 148, £16, and similar Hinar 149, £13, and Oster 3241, £19, did best in the tests but were hard to find in the shops. The Rowenta TAO4, £23, was a bit slow, and more expensive, but also did well.

Some models could cope with thick-sliced bread, crumpets and half baps, while others took thick-sliced bread and crumpets. Few could take only thick-sliced bread.

To test the toasters, the *Which?* team made four bat-

also assessed on how easy it was to use and clean, and on how useful the accompanying instructions were.

None was particularly awkward to use but some were liked better than others.

● Advantages included: a plug fitted ready for use, provision to switch off an element for one-slice toasting, cord storage facility, wall-mounting, ability to eject toast manually, frozen bread setting, grill, and a hinged or removable crumb tray.

● Disadvantages were: bread protruding from the top of the slot while toasting, small or thin slices shooting out when they pop up, frozen bread settings giving dark or black toast, awkward-to-use browning controls, fingers getting hot when removing small slices, difficulties ejecting the toast manually, and clearing crumbs and/or dirt trays.

Two samples of each model were put through 4,000 toasting cycles — about the same as using them twice a day for five years. If minor faults were found, the team repaired them or tested another sample.

Only about half the toasters came through the tests in good condition. Because the element failed on the first two samples of the Dateline DLN3078, the team tested a further four samples. The element failed each time after only 350 to 765 cycles (representing about six months' to one year's twice-daily use). Dateline has told *Which?* that this toaster has now been withdrawn from the shops and that anyone who buys one, or has bought one and finds that it breaks down in the first year, should take it back to the shop where it was bought for replacement.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BROADCASTING

THAT HIDEOUS STRENGTH: Dramatization of C. S. Lewis's "a modern fairy tale for grown-ups", a story set in an English university with echoes of the Arthurian legend. Robert Edlison plays Merlin. Radio 4, Fri, 3-4pm.

THE GREAT MOGHULS: From locations in India and Pakistan Bamber Gascoigne presents a short survey of the dynasty which ruled the sub-continent for two centuries. Channel 4, Fri, 8-8.30pm.

HEARTBURN (1986): Meryl Streep and Jack Nicholson strike sparks in Nora Ephron's study of a modern marriage, directed by Mike Nichols. BBC1, Fri, 9.30-11.20pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WISHING YOU WELL: A celebration through photography of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children's highly successful "Wishing Well" fund-raising appeal. Photographers' agent Louis Kent came up with the idea of inviting some of the cream of British photographers to spend time at the hospital recording day to day life. The result is a highly original collection of pictures by 20 photographers including Don McCullin, David Bailey, and Terence Donovan, which capture the tremendous fortitude and courage shown by so many of the children who have had to endure endless months of complex treatment. This compassionate and heart warming exhibition will tour the country throughout 1990. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-981 1711). From Wed-25 Feb.



Unpredictable: from left to right, Elena Zarembo as Koutchakovna, Sergei Leiferkus as Prince Igor and Alexei Steblianko as Vladimir in the Royal Opera production of Borodin's epic *Prince Igor* at Covent Garden

To mark the centenary of its world premiere in St Petersburg, the Royal Opera is presenting a new production of Borodin's epic *Prince Igor* which opens at Covent Garden on Thursday (6.30pm). It was to have been quite a celebration, with the Royal Ballet collaborating with the Opera for the first time in many years. Because of its recent industrial dispute, the Ballet has had to pull out, but the production, I am told, will still contain "a substantial dance element" choreographed by David Bintley.

While the future of the Polovisian Dances is still very much up in the air, the vocal and dramatic excitement is promised in the presence of

OPERA

HILARY FINCH

Sergei Leiferkus in the title role, Nicola Ghisleva as Prince Galitzky and Anna Tomowa-Sintow as Jaroslava, all singing under the baton of Bernard Haitink. The precise length of the evening is still in question. Borodin himself, who had a habit of writing sections of the piece in between chemical experiments, never completed the opera. What we hear next week will depend on the immediate practicalities of an opera still fascinatingly difficult to pin down in both format and interpretation. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066), Thurs, then Mon Feb 5 and throughout Feb, 6.30pm, £4-£90.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Tim Albery (of *Trojan* fame) now turns to Berlioz's last great opera and directs the new *Beatrice and Benedict* at the Coliseum. Ann Murray and Philip Langridge, husband and wife, take the title roles and Mark Elder conducts. Performances tonight, Wed and Fri at 7.30pm. *Faust* continues in a strong revival on Thurs and Sat, Feb 3, at 7.30pm, with Susan Bullock taking over from Valerie

Masterman on Sat. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: The company has just unveiled its new double bill of Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle* and Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. Tonight at 7.15pm. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

THEATRE

TONY PATRICK

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: English Shakespeare Company begins a new tour. University of Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry (0203 417417). Opens Mon.

ENRICO FOUR: Pirandello's play opens the new season. Citizens, Glasgow (041 429 5561). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

THE PRICE: Arthur Miller play directed by David Thacker. Young Vic, London SE1 (010828 6363). Preview from Thurs.

RACING DEMON: New David Hare play, about South London Anglican clergy and their problems. National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252). Preview from Thurs.



Caught: Peter Bowles, Diane Bull

In *Man of the Moment*, the latest Alan Ayckbourn play to reach London, previewing at the Globe, Peter Bowles plays "Vic", a television personality with a criminal past. The author directs a cast including Michael Gambon, Samantha Bond and Diane Bull. Bowles says: "It is the best new play I have ever read, and I had never worked with Michael Gambon before, although we have been friends for years, so that was one of the great bonuses. Vic is the sort of part an actor looks and prays for, an enormous challenge, powerful and complex. Working with Ayckbourn has been marvellous. He is, very rightly, insistent that we say his words exactly and correctly, but we have had no inhibitions in exploring ideas and actions. Having the author with you, as we did for a while in *The Entertainer* with John Osborne, is a real privilege." He adds: "There's a swimming pool on the set, and I have to swim 12 lengths at each show, so I expect that will do my health some good, if not my hair." *Man of the Moment*, Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-437 3667). Preview from Friday. Opens Feb 14.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Further performances tonight, Mon and Tues of *La Fille Mal Gardée*, then *Swan Lake* Fri. Covent Garden (01-240 1068).

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: A short tour begins with this company's first performance of Merce Cunningham's *Doubles* on a bill with works by Richard Alston, Trisha Brown and Ashley Page (Tues-Thurs). Tetley's Embrace

Tiger, Alston's Strong Language and Siobhan Davies's *Embrace* are given Fri and Feb 3. Birmingham Rep (021 236 4455).

BALLET DU NORD: Company from Roubaix, France with two programmes. Especially for children, *Peter and the Wolf* and *Carnival of the Animals* (Tues, Wed matinee and evening, and Feb 3 matinee). For others, Balchère's *Serenade* and Alfonso Cate's *Plat Les mots d'amour* (Thurs-Feb 3). Derrigate, Northampton (0604 24811).

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

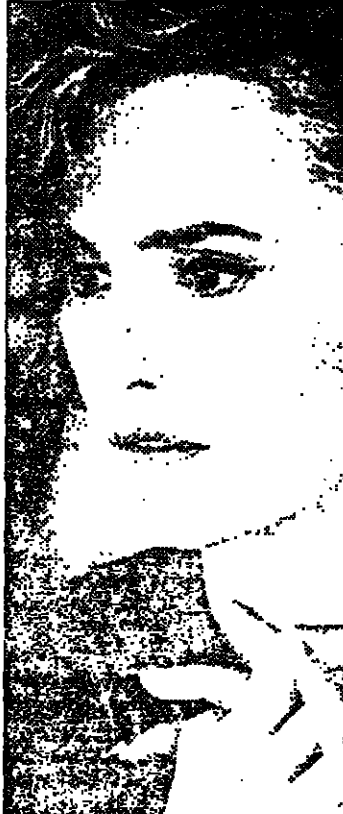
LOCK UP (18): Sylvester Stallone trying to soft-pedal the brutality and brawn as a model prisoner faced with an unhelpful and vengeful warden (Donald Sutherland). A slick script, but tautly directed by John Flynn. Cannon Haymarket (01-639 1527). From Fri.

SUN (15): Kaleidoscopic evocation of marital exile and the difficulties of homecoming in the years of Argentina's military dictatorship, from stylish director Fernando Solanas. Music by Astor Piazzolla. Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). From Fri.

LET'S GET LOST (15): Bleak portrait of the late jazz trumpeter Chet Baker, focussing more on his messy, drug-hazed life than his music. Directed in black and white by photographer Bruce Weber. Metro (01-437 0757). From Fri.

40 YEARS OF HUNGARIAN CINEMA: Second instalment of the National Film Theatre's useful Hungarian survey, encompassing both accepted classics (*The Contraband*, *Love*) and rarities like Laszlo Ránody's *Skyline*. National Film Theatre (01-982 3232). From Thurs.

We owe *Far North*, in part, to a polo accident. The writer and director Sam Shepard was injured in a game and spent his convalescence pushing the script round Hollywood and trying to arrange a deal. Shepard did his work well: for the first time he emerged from negotiations with himself inked in as the director of the film. His wife, Jessica Lange, was also a key part in the package. She stars as Kate, a country girl now living in the city who returns home to visit her ornery father in hospital. He, like Shepard, has been thrown from a horse. Daughter Kate becomes drawn into a mighty tussle of wills in a fractious but loving family, with the blustery father played by Charles Durning and Tessa Harner appearing as Kate's sister. This high-decibel melodrama about family and the land may not be a match for the persuasiveness and originality of *Paris, Texas*, the highly successful film which Shepard wrote for Wim Wenders, but Shepard relished the freedom that the venture gave him: "It's much more satisfying this way, because there's no middle man. I can make all my own mistakes." *Far North* opens in London, Friday at the Cannon Tottenham Court Road, London, certificate 12.



Jessica Lange stars in *Far North*

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

THE THIRD DECADE: TURNER WATERCOLOURS 1810-1820: Includes pictures prepared for the painter's lectures at the Royal Academy and others made during his first and revelatory trip to Italy in 1819. Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 7128). From Wed.

FE MCWILLIAM: Recent mulberry wood sculptures by an important, 1930s surrealist artist, whose style has since evolved through many phases both figurative and abstract. Mayor Gallery, London W1 (01-734 3558). From Wed.

ART 90: More than 30 British galleries commune at this four-day event to exhibit their best work.

The Independent Group, formed in 1952, was a self-consciously innovative gang of critics and artists whose home base was the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London. Sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi (a detail from whose "I Was a Rich Man's Plaything" is pictured above), painter Richard Hamilton and theorists Reyner Banham and Lawrence Alloway were the principal protagonists, their purpose to deliver a kick up the pants to what Banham called "the Piperish gloom of British painting". They looked to American popular culture, space comics, fin-tailed cars, gadgetry, brand-name packaging, New Technology, as a means by which art might feed on real life. They gave lectures, devised exhibitions and made outrageous statements. Internationally influential, they anticipated Pop iconography by several years and spread confidence in British avant garde. A new exhibition, The Independent Group: Postwar Britain and the Aesthetics of Plenty, recreates their seminal mid-1950s shows. It opens on Thursday at the ICA London SW1 (01-930 3647).

CONCERTS

TENNISTEDT'S TITAN: Klaus Tennstedt conducts the LPO in Mahler's Symphony No 1 "The Titan". Mozart's *Serenade K 368* and, with Yfaat Weisman (cello), Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Mon, 7.30pm.

BOHEMIAN THREESOMES: The Suk Piano Trio plays Smetana's *Trio Op 15*, Dvorak's *Trio Op 65* and Suk's *Elégie Op 23*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street,



Paolozzi's answer to Piper's gloom

Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 (01-359 3535). From Thurs.

MONTEVERDI MUSICKE: The Consort of Musicke sings numerous Monteverdi madrigals. Wigmore Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

MOZART AND SALIERI: Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia. London Symphony Chorus and soloists in a concert performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mozart and Salieri*, followed by Mozart's *Requiem*. Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

JAZZ

YANK LAWSON: Co-leader of The World's Greatest Jazz Band, the Bobcat trumpeter appears with ex-Humphreys player Bruce Turner. Pizza Express, London W1 (01-438 8722), Fri, Sat Feb 3.

ADELAIDE HALL: Jazz brunch with the veteran singer. Casper's, London W1 (01-493 7923), tomorrow.

KENNY WHEELER: Concluding dates of his Contemporary Music Network tour. Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham (021 236 3889), tonight; Town Hall, Cheltenham (0242 523999), tomorrow; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry (0203 417417), Mon; Newcastle Playhouse (081 232 7079), Tues; University of York (0904 432439), Wed; Theatre Royal, Winchester (0962 843434), Thurs.

ROCK

THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS: Last November's *Book of Days* was a difficult, artistically satisfying album, which has done the band few favours commercially. Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606), tomorrow; Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321), Mon; Astoria, Leeds (0532 490362), Tues; Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 483505), Wed.

THE SUNDAYS: Their *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic* debut has shot in at No. 4, a startling achievement. Riverside, Newcastle (091 261 4386), Thurs; Queen Margaret Union, Glasgow (041 339 9784), Fri.

GEORGE CLINTON'S P-FUNK ALLSTARS: The outrageous exorcist is back with a 17-piece band and a brilliant album, *The Cindrella Theory*, to promote. Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081), Fri.

BARRY MANILOW: Return of the smooth, perennial crooner. London Palladium, W1 (01-437 7373), Tues for 10 nights.

BRIDGE

Those who do not play bridge tend to think that it must be quite a stressful game. They are often surprised to learn that even persons with great responsibilities may find it relaxing and reinvigorating, examples being Eisenhower, both as General and President, and Deng Xiaoping.

In Britain the good standing of the annual Lords vs Commons Bridge Match, conducted by Rixi Markus, MBE, confirms that this is so. Rivalry is strong, candidates for places on the two teams are numerous, and in-fighting for these places is in the best Westminster tradition. However, the Lords and Commons are about to close ranks, for they have been challenged by Corporate America, a newly-formed team of American business tycoons, rampant from having beaten the US Congress. The challenge has been accepted and the match takes place in London towards the end of February.

Captained by Laurence Tisch, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, the team includes Malcolm Forbes, editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine and promulgated by the American Press as the world's top capitalist. The top bridge player, however, is without any doubt Jimmy Cayne, a world-championship runner-up, who is president of the investment firm, Bear Stearns.

Even so, I do not think Parliament will be outclassed, as the combined team has depth and has done well against a number of foreign legislatures. Captained by the Duke of Atholl, whose oppo-

sitive number in the Commons is Sir Peter Emery, they have twice defeated the US Congress, against whom this deal was played:

♠ A 7 3 2	♥ K Q 5 2	♦ 9 8 5 4	♣ K 10 6 5 2
♠ K 9 7 3	♥ A 10 4	♦ A 10 6 5 2	♣ A 10 6 5 2
♠ 8 5 4	♥ 8 5 4	♦ 8 5 4	♣ 8 5 4
♠ 10 6 5 2	♥ 10 6 5 2	♦ 10 6 5 2	♣ 10 6 5 2

W	N	E	S
No	14	No	40
Dee	No	No	40
No	No	No	40

North's opening was based on playing values and was weak in high cards, while South's spade combination proved to be largely wasted. The contract was therefore less secure than South had anticipated.

West led his singleton club, threatening a killing ruff. There was no way to avert this, so the lead was taken in dummy and a low heart led to the jack. West won, cashed the ace of spades, led the 3 of diamonds to East's ace, and made ready to ruff the expected club return.

But East had a problem: having only two clubs, he found it hard to place West with only one. So he returned a diamond. As South, I had the presence of mind to ruff with the 10 rather than the 6, which was just as well, for otherwise the trumps could not have been drawn without West getting a trick.

Digressing, the reader may

wonder how this writer came to be playing the hand. It was because one of the Parliamentarians had missed the flight to Washington, and the Americans had sportingly agreed to my acting as a substitute. ("A ringer as Alfred Sheinwald, darkly put it.) Thus I had the pleasure of partnering Sally Oppenheim, MP, (now Baroness Oppenheim-Barnes), the then Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Ringer or not, it was a simple matter to cash the ace of trumps and continue with a finesse of dummy's 8, claiming the balance.

This costly mis-defence was due much more to West than to his partner. Partners are often in need of guidance and opportunities to help may be missed in routine situations. Had West led the 9 of diamonds instead of the 3, the clear inference would have been that a diamond return was not desired.

At the formal opening, Sheinwald had charged the visitors with having prepared very earnestly for the encounter. Replying, I pointed out that, to the contrary, most of the Parliamentarians were alumni of ancient colleges where effortless superiority was considered the thing.

In the coming match, Corporate America will be able to level no such accusation, for my spies tell me that they are being coached by Judy Radin, a world pairs winner.

As for the Lords and Commons, we may be confident that the effortless superiority will be there. And, who knows, perhaps the superiority, too.

Albert Dormer

CHESS

The Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier tournament would, according to the World Chess Federation ranking list published on January 1, have been the highest rated tournament ever held in the UK. Often the heavyweights in such a prestigious contest indulge in cautious fencing where no blood-letting is visible. At Hastings, however, the two World Championship semi-finalists scored nothing but decisive results in their games against each other. The game which follows was the more dramatic with the advantage swinging backwards and forwards and a missed queen sacrifice.

Artur Yusupov-Jon Speelman. Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier. Torre Attack. 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 Bg5 Be7

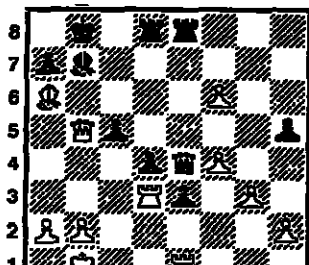
A more risky line is the counterattack 3...c5 4 e3 Qb6 when White normally gambits a pawn with 5 Nbd2. 4 Nbd2 b5 5 Bb4 c5 6 e3 Nbd7 7 c3 c4 8 Bb3 b4 9 Nc5

White is careful not to castle king-side before playing this move.

Forcing a crisis in the centre. 15 e4 f5 16 e5 f6 17 f4 g5 18 Nf3 h5

Strong stuff from Speelman. After 20 cxb5 Nb6 21 Nd2 f5 White is continually threatened with the disruptive advance...c4.

while Black establishes a similar horde in the centre. 25 e5 f6 26 e6 f7 27 Qd5 e6 28 f6 Qe4+



25...e5 26...e6 27...Qd5 28...f6 29...Qd3 30...Qxd3 31...Be4

Tragic. Speelman overlooks the forced and indeed logical consequence of his play. Instead 29...Qxd3+ 30 Qxd3 Be4 wins the exchange.

After this horrible blunder Yusupov, for the first time in the game, gets the upper hand. 30 Nc7+ Qd7 31 Qe5

Initiating the harvest of Black's once proud pawns. 31 Qe5 Qc4 32 Qc4 Nf6 33 Ke1 Qd5

Must Black play this? If so his cause is lost. In principle White has the threat of 34 R1xe3 Qxe3 35 Rxe3 d3 36 Qe4+ but it does not work yet due to the vulnerability of White's back rank.

34 Qxd3+ Rxd3 35 Rxe3 Rxe3 36 Rxd3 Rxd3 37 Rxe3 Rxe3 38 Rxd3 Rxd3 39 Rxe3 Rxe3 40 Rxd3 Rxd3 41 Rxe3 Rxe3 42 Rxd3 Rxd3 43 Rxe3 Rxe3 44 Rxd3 Rxd3 45 Rxe3 Rxe3 46 Rxd3 Rxd3 47 Rxe3 Rxe3 48 Rxd3 Rxd3

An important innovation at Hastings this year was the introduction of a Masters section, designed to give opportunities for young play-

ers to compete for Grandmaster results. In the event 26-year-old Joe Gallagher from Wimbledon seized his chance, tying for first prize and obtaining his second Grandmaster norm. He now requires just one more for the coveted title.

Given Tony Kostant's acquisition of the Grandmaster title in the Challengers section (he becomes England's 17th Grandmaster) Hastings was remarkably rich in furthering the careers of the younger generation of British players.

This position occurred in the game Nemet (White), Klinger (Black), Biel 1989. Black to play and win.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Chess Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 6BN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Times value-sized personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Qc8 Rf6 2 Rf8+ Nf6 3 Qd7 3 Nf7 mate.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: White wins with 1 Nc6 f5 2 Rf2+ Qd7 3 Nf7 mate.

The three winners of The Times personal chess computer are: David Foster, Rotherham; V. V. K. Wright, North, Prestatyn; P. Wright, North, Prestatyn.

Raymond Keene

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2087

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, February 1. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 6BN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, February 3.

ACROSS

1 Getaway (6)

4 Circle (4)

7 Browbeat (3)

9 Paint dilution (7)

10 Hever baron (5)

11 New Lloyd Webber
musical (7,2,4)

12 Horseplay comedy (5)

15 Holster's form (13)

19 Cider fruit (5)

28 Doubtful (7)

21 Manuscripts (3)

22 Jane — Rochester's
lover (4)

23 Yield (6)

DOWN

1 Ensnare (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 2086
ACROSS: 8 Centaur 9 Bantu 10 RPI 11 Awestruck 12 Hour 14 Whistle 17 Single 19 Pilot 22 Detergent 24 Mar 25 Lc 26 Vantage
DOWN: 1 Scorch 2 In situ 3 Palatial 4 Green with envy 5 Abet 6 Unjust 7 Buckle 13 Obit 15 Impotent 16 Loo 17 Saddle 18 Nature 20 Lamas 21 Target 23 Risk

SOLUTION TO NO 2081
ACROSS: 1 Grouch 4 Spud 7 Pin 9 Ostich 10 Brox 11 General 12 Impelling 16 Veringetorix 19 Lease 20 Shunned 21 Set 22 Erie 25 Herpes
DOWN: 1 George 2 Ofan 3 Chirrup 5 Parking 6 Denier 7 Philologist 8 Milt 12 Inroads 13 Intrude 14 Svelte 15 Exodous 17 Ives 18 Run up

The winners of prize concise No 2081 are: Ann Bradford, Lewes, East Sussex; Ian North, Great Bourn, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Name _____
Address _____

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SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1990

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Sabina Park's potential for disaster

All winter long I have suffered a vague sense of unease over how I would feel when England set off on tour without me. Now that the moment has passed, I can report only that I am slightly relieved. It is an unexpected feeling which has nothing to do with what lies ahead of Graham Gooch and his squad, everything to do with what lies immediately behind me in this crowded, confusing close season.

As things have worked out, it is probably a good thing that I am not on tour. It has been a chaotic period in my life with some major decisions taking up a great deal of time and attention. Much though I regretted being left out of the party, I am prepared to concede that it might now have been turned in my favour.

For one thing, my shoulder has not yet made a complete recovery following the successful surgery in the autumn. I have not pushed it, knowing that my target is April, but in its current condition I could



David Gower

The former England captain will be reporting exclusively for The Times during the Test series in the West Indies

not confidently approach a demanding tour. But at least equally as important as the physical factor is the mental factor. With all that has been happening in my life I might have found it hard to focus single-mindedly on the tour, as all those who are going must do.

I had some experience of this four years ago, when I captained the last England mission to the Caribbean. My mother died shortly before departure day and my mind was in a whirl as we set off. There was some criticism

when I decided not to play in the opening match, but I had mentally exhausted myself in getting things under way while still in an emotional turmoil. I needed to wind down.

The problems encountered on that tour, and the previous trip five years earlier, give me some insight into the likely hazards. Graham, the new captain, was also on both those tours and he will have taken a consciously positive attitude, knowing how essential it is to instil such thoughts into the youngsters.

The squad's preparation has evidently been thorough and impressive. This has been a step in the right direction. But no matter how many indoor nets the boys may have had and how many miles they may have run, I can tell them it will count for little when they are out in the middle.

Above all else, above any technical merit or physical fitness, they will need mental toughness when things go wrong — as, at some stage,

they are bound to do.

The first thing they will discover is that practice facilities around the Caribbean can best be described as eccentric. They will need ingenuity, imagination and infinite patience. In 1986 I caused some of a storm by making certain net sessions voluntary.

I fully expect the issue to be thrown at me again during the coming weeks. But while I admit that, on one occasion, my judgment was awry because we needed to be seen to be working hard, I maintain that there is little to be gained by insisting on another official practice on demonstrably bad pitches.

We encountered the classic situation in Antigua. We had sent our manager, Tony Brown, a day early to establish what facilities were available. He found the nets were wet but received an assurance that all would be well when the players arrived. But the following day we found the surface soaking wet again and totally unusable.

The groundsmen's excuse was that cows had got onto the wicket overnight, obliging him to water and roll them again. It was a shambles and we were utterly helpless but it summed up the frustrations with which this year's team will need to cope.

Once they are on the field of play, their greatest challenge will come, as usual, from the West Indian fast bowlers. To some extent their effectiveness will be dictated by the conditions and this makes the first Test in Jamaica next month a signpost for the series.

In 1981 Kingston staged the last, rather than the first, Test. We had been through the mangle by then — expelled from Guyana in the Robin Jackman affair, enduring the heartbreak of Kenny Barrington's death and then losing the first two Tests heavily.

We drew in Antigua and almost achieved a moral victory with a second draw in

Kingston, where Gooch and I each scored 150. I saw this as my coming of age. I felt I needed a century against this attack to be considered a serious international player. It remains my only century and still ranks today among the best innings I have ever played.

That was achieved on a quick but essentially flat pitch; five years later, Sabina Park had altered character. The relayed square still produced pace but now the bounce was horribly uneven. We were beaten inside three days and the mental damage was incalculable. I fear that from then on we were looking to limit our losses rather than to win.

Kingston is a very bad place for us to be starting this series and I pointed it out to our board last summer. Their reply is that teams visiting England have no choice but to fit in with our traditional pattern of Test venues, so how

can we dispute this itinerary? I think everyone knows, however, that there is potential for a disastrous start.

Anyone touring the West Indies is aware of the physical side of things and knows that a certain amount of pain is inevitable. It is worth stressing, though, that Malcolm Marshall and the other quick bowlers are quality performers who will try to dismiss a batsman with a set technical plan. It is only when they are frustrated that they tend to resort to consistent bouncers.

I would also suggest that the West Indian batting is more fragile than Australia's ever was last summer. And that, given the right blend of aggression and control in our bowling, there is scope for a few surprises.

I am not, at this stage, going to insist that England can or cannot win. For now, it is enough that they believe they can.

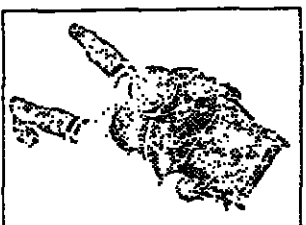


IN THE TUSCAN TRIANGLE

The hillside village of Perla overlooks the best of Tuscany and, as Ann Morrow discovered, it is an ideal base from which to explore the medieval triangle formed by Lucca, Florence and Siena. Page 63

LAZING IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

Gopalpur-on-Sea is a splendidly old-fashioned Indian resort. For anyone who has been obliged to keep up with a heavy programme of temples, palaces and markets it comes as a treat to find there is virtually nothing to do there. Bill Powell took tea on the verandah. Page 59



MOUNTAIN ACTION

It is snowing at last in the Alps and the ski resorts hope that much-needed heavy falls are on their way. Whatever the weather, there is always a selection of winter sports to choose from, as Doug Sager reports. Page 61

Compromise on tour protests

From Richard Streeton Kimberley, South Africa

As Mike Gatting's own batting held his English XI's innings together at what was a relatively normal, tranquil cricket match, more than 2,000 demonstrators were left frustrated and angry when they were prevented from reaching the ground by riot police at road blocks two miles away.

After three hours of tense talking a potentially explosive situation was finally averted when Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African Cricket Union (SACU), said he would secure the necessary permit for the protesters to stand outside the cricket ground demonstrating today.

Bacher went into Kimberley and eventually obtained the permit. Krish Naidoo, the National Sports Congress (NSC) general secretary and the demonstrators' leader, gave a guarantee that they would not try to enter the ground or to disrupt the game. He added, though, that he could not guarantee the behaviour of any protesters who had bought tickets.

For Bacher to apply for the permit that the NSC refused to seek themselves was a remarkable ending to a dramatic day's events. Onlookers sensed that the mood had been changing and that the reason and tolerance which have marked the demonstrations on the tour so far were beginning to wear thin.

The protesters, mostly from nearby black townships and including schoolchildren, had marched from the city centre in mid-morning before they were stopped. Eventually a small deputation led by Naidoo was allowed to enter the ground to enlist Bacher's help to allow them to proceed. Bacher returned with them to the road blocks, where he agreed they should be allowed to stand outside the ground provided there was no violence.

The police, however, were not happy with this and both they and Bacher rang government offices in Pretoria for guidance, leaving the protesters sweating in the 100° sunshine.

As the protesters waited, some of them began to drift

ENGLISH XI: First Innings

B C Broad	c Osborne b McLaren	26
C W J Athey	c Lisenberg b Watson	43
R T Robinson	c Arthur b Lisenberg	26
M W Gatting	c Bridgman b du Toit	71
A P Wells	c McLaren b Watson	0
E Embury	c Arthur b du Toit	0
R M Gibson	c Lisenberg b Fourie	6
13 N French	c Lisenberg b Howell	55
5 G Thomas	c and b McLaren	2
P W Jarvis	c and b Howell	36
D A Greveney	not out	2
Extras	(b 4, lb 14, w 1, nb 4)	20
Total		305

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52, 2-95, 3-106, 4-110, 5-161, 6-174, 7-229, 8-242, 9-300.

SCOTLAND: Watson 17, 4-25-25; Fourie 23-25-1; du Toit 24-32-25; McLaren 10-84-2; Howell 12-3-27-2; Lisenberg 15-30-1.

COMBINED BOWL: XI: J M Arthur, G Lisenberg, W G Truist, B M Osborne, R T Robinson, T L Howell, J D du Toit, M W Gatting, P McLaren, S Fourie, N French. Umpires: K Lisenberg and J Peacock.

away. Eventually a ruling emerged from Pretoria that the protesters could be allowed to demonstrate at the ground if they secured a magistrate's permit, though this can take up to a week to obtain.

Bacher then made his offer to secure the permit himself within an hour but by then the demonstration was breaking up. As the protesters dispersed, there were reports of damage being done to parked cars and gardens.

The English cricketers were unaware of the protest march. Nobody, however, could miss the groups of armed policemen who encircled the field and at the start outnumbered the handful of spectators. Everyone had to pass the scrutiny of a metal detector as they entered the ground and all bags were searched. By late afternoon the crowd was still barely 500, a bitter disappointment for SACU officials.

Remembering the scorching sun, Gatting must have been thankful to win the toss. The captain found his form straight away but nobody else apart from French stayed long, though several lasted sufficiently to get the feel of bat upon ball again. A well watered pitch helped the seam bowlers a little.

Gatting came in shortly after lunch and immediately brought up the 100 with a straight six. He continued to punch both seam and slow bowlers in his familiar, resolute style as the team's position was redeemed after three wickets fell in seven overs in early afternoon. Gatting, who hit nine fours, was finally caught behind off du Toit, the left-arm seamer, as he at-



Leading from the front: Gatting, captain of the English XI, on his way to 75 yesterday

tempted a rather loose drive. Broad and Athey looked rusty as they put on 52 in 17 overs for the first wicket. Watson, who played for Nottinghamshire in 1976, twice appealed for leg-before against Broad, who was caught at first slip in McLaren's second over. Athey's strokes began to

blossom against the two left-arm spinners but after the interval he clipped a catch into forward short leg's midriff. Robinson was in 31 overs for his 26 before mistiming a backfoot drive and was held at short extra cover. Wells was beaten off the pitch and edged an away-swing to a wide

second slip. Embury was mostly watchful before he flashed outside the off stump and was held at second slip. Ellison lifted a catch off his legs to mid-wicket before French dropped anchor and went on to reach a half-century.

Umpire's stand ill supported by Pakistanis

From John Woodcock, Melbourne

Not a quarter of a mile from where John McEnroe was disqualified from the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne last Saturday, the Pakistan cricket team were fortunate not to have to forfeit their match against Victoria yesterday when they came up against one of the very few first-class umpires in the world with the courage of his convictions.

Robin Bailhache is heartily disliked by Australian cricketers, only partly because of an arrogant manner. He umpires, or tries to, according to the laws of the game. So yesterday, when Mushtaq Ahmed, Pakistan's young leg spinner, kept following through down the line of the stumps, into a forbidden area, Bailhache warned him, and then warned him again (and his captain too) and then said he was not to bowl again in the innings.

Whereupon the Pakistanis, captained by Ramiz Raja, became emotional and rebellious. Intikhab Alam, their manager, rather than telling the Pakistanis that, for better or worse, the umpire's word

was final, and that they should get on with the game, appeared in the middle and, having done that, walked off with them.

To save the match from a sick and sudden end — this was its first day — a compromise was based on Rameez Raja's contention that he was unaware Mushtaq had had a final warning.

Very soon after yesterday's incident and the match had been restarted, Aaqib, having been warned for bowling three successive bouncers at Simon O'Donnell, immediately bowled two more, which were both no-balls.

VICTORIA: First Innings

G M Watts	b b Wager	102
S Prescott	c Anwar b Gifford	10
W N Phillips	c Anwar b Mushtaq	17
J D Siddons	c Ghouse b Mushtaq	17
W G Ayres	b Ghouse	24
S P O'Donnell	not out	60
A I C Dooden	not out	14
Extras	(b 8, lb 1, nb 7)	16
Total (5 wickets)		247

TM G D Dinning, P R Reiffel, D Fleming and P E McIntyre to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-56, 3-91, 4-142, 5-218.

BOWLING: Wager 16-1-50-1; Aaqib 10-3-22-2; Ghouse 26-4-45-2; Tauseef 21-3-56-0; Mushtaq 13-3-32-2.

PAKISTANS: Ramiz Raja, Amir Malik, Shoaib Mohammad, Ijaz Ahmed, Saad Anwar, Tauseef Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmed, Nadeem Ghauri, Waqar Younis, Yaseen Younis, Aaqib Javed.

Book award for Barnes

Simon Barnes, of The Times, has won the Cricket Society's literary award for 1989 for his book *A La Recherche du Cricket Perdu*, published by Macmillan (£7.99), extracts of which were published in these pages on December 16. Simon Barnes at the Commonwealth Games, page 52

Dunfermline could disrupt sense of title inevitability

By Roddy Forsyth

If the profound sense of inevitability which presently hangs over the Scottish championship race is to be disrupted this afternoon, it will depend upon Dunfermline's ability to reverse the trend of their own recent indifferent form in order to provide a serious obstacle to Rangers' impressive momentum.

The two clubs meet at East End Park where, earlier in the season, Rangers emerged with only a point but since then the climate has altered for these teams, both literally and metaphorically.

The snow and rain storms in Scotland this week have left the Fifers' pitch in a sodden condition and ground staff worked diligently yesterday in an attempt to guarantee that the all-ticket encounter can proceed.

Rangers are certainly keen to extend their domination of the premier division, in which they lead Aberdeen by four points, although they must play this afternoon without Butcher, their captain, who is suspended.

Brown will probably cover in central defence alongside Gough and the reshuffle is likely to mean a place for Vinnicombe, the teenage England full back. The home side are likely to deploy Bonnyman, the former Darlington assistant manager in place of Tierney, who is also suspended.

Across the Forth estuary in Edinburgh, the meeting of Heart of Midlothian and Dundee United suggests an attractive fixture, although over the past couple of seasons encounters between the clubs have been notable for a tendency to produce draws.

"I think that we have emerged from that spell," Eamonn Bannon, the Hearts player-coach, said yesterday. "Although the teams play in different styles we tended to cancel each other out but our squad is certainly stronger and more flexible than it was last season and I think that these matches are likely to be more open."

Whittaker, the Hearts full back, is suspended but Mackay and Sandison are

available after completing bans and McKinlay is restored to full fitness.

Dundee United will employ the same squad which saw them out of the Scottish Cup in midweek, with the obvious exception of Gallacher, who was sold to Coventry City on Thursday.

Aberdeen travel to Paisley in their quest to keep in touch with Rangers and they may be able to recall Soeters, of the Netherlands, their goalkeeper, and Gillhaus, his fellow-countryman, both of whom have been injured for several weeks.

St Mirren, however, must do without Torfarsion, of Iceland, their talented forward, who is automatically suspended after his dismissal in the midweek cup replay with Ayr United.

Motherwell, meanwhile, are able to include Cusack, their bustling forward, in a 16-strong pool for the visit Parkhead, where Celtic are obliged to perform without the services of the suspended Elliott.

Ferguson feels the tingle of the Cup

By Ian Ross

Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, was in philosophical mood yesterday as he prepared for the FA Cup fourth-round tie tomorrow against Hereford United at Edgar Street and the possibility of a premature end to his side's unhappy season.

Ian Bowyer, manager of the fourth division club, suggested this week that an upset was possible, sporting psychology which Ferguson seemed almost to welcome.

"They sense that a Cup sensation is brewing but it could well rebound on them," Ferguson said. "By talking in that manner, they are bringing a tingle of excitement to this game and so they are helping us to be more mentally alert. We knocked out a very good team, Nottingham Forest, in the last round and we did it while lacking five injured players."

A cup-tie against fourth division opposition on an unfamiliar ground would be fraught with danger for United at the best of times. These are not the best of times. The pressure is on the United

players to produce a performance which reflects the unshakeable faith in their abilities displayed by their beleaguered manager.

Since defeating Luton Town at Kenilworth Road on November 18, United have won one game, the FA Cup tie against Forest on January 7. A run of 10 League games without a victory constitutes United's worst run in 18 years. The clamour for Ferguson's dismissal will reach new heights if United lose at Hereford.

It is unclear which side Ferguson will select tomorrow. Robson will miss his seventh consecutive game because of a groin injury. He will be joined in the grandstand by Phelan (Achilles tendon) and Sharpe (stomach muscle strain). Bruce, who begins a three-match suspension tomorrow after his sending-off against Derby County a fortnight ago, will also be absent.

Liverpool's defence of the Cup continues in a televised game against Norwich City at Carrow Road tomorrow.

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FOOTBALL: FA CUP COINCIDENCE TAKES HOWE, DOCHERTY AND BASSETT INTO FOURTH-ROUND CONFRONTATION WITH SIDES THEY KNOW FROM OLDER DAYS

Managers face their former clubs with a cup point to prove

By Louise Taylor

The FA Cup has a habit of producing coincidences as Don Howe, John Docherty and Dave Bassett will testify as they prepare for this weekend's fourth-round ties.

The visit of Queen's Park Rangers to Arsenal today is a prime example as it entails Howe, now in charge at Loftus Road, returning to the club which dispensed with his managerial services four years ago. While Howe has a point to prove, any hard feelings should be concealed beneath the unstinting respect of George Graham, who succeeded him as manager at Highbury. Graham played in the 1971 Arsenal double-winning side coached by Howe and his admiration is genuine.

Then there is Cambridge United's trip to The Den. Millwall are managed by Docherty, who was in charge of Cambridge during the club's most successful period, when they rose to the top half of the second division during the early 1980s. With a shortage of money it was hardly surprising when the team started to silt and, as frequently happens in football, the board lost its nerve and Docherty was dismissed. Subsequently he has taken Millwall into the first division for the first time.

"I was upset to go," Docherty said. "Cambridge is in the fourth division now and I am proud enough to believe that some people regret decisions that were made in haste and panic. But there is no grudge as far as I am concerned. I have been back to Cambridge many times and even recommended John Beck as the new manager when Chris Turner stood down a few weeks ago."

Cambridge will field a side costing under £70,000 to assemble but now valued at over £1 million. Daish, Chapple, Taylor, Dublin, Kimble and Leadbitter, have mostly arrived on free transfers but have attracted the attentions of leading clubs. "It will be interesting to see how those of my players who are said to be good enough for the first division get on in this game," Beck said. "A lot will depend on how they react to the atmosphere at the Den."

Another coincidence has resulted in Bassett, the manager of Sheffield United, playing host to Watford, his former club. Bassett's relationship with the Vicarage Road club came to an acrimonious end two years ago. Port Vale are treating today's match with Aston Villa

as if they were visiting Wembley rather than Villa Park. John Rudge, the Vale manager, has had players and backroom staff measured up to 24 grey, two-piece suits. "I think when you look good you feel good as well, and we need to be looking and acting our best," he said. Villa will be aware that Vale were responsible for the exit of Tottenham Hotspur two years ago, and have already disposed of Derby County this season.

Forwards will have to be at their most incisive at Spotland where Rochdale, in the fourth round for only the second time, entertain Northampton Town, the third-round victors of Coventry City, with either side yet to concede a goal in this season's competition. Coincidentally Terry and Graham Carr, his Northampton counterparts, were formerly playing colleagues at Bradford Park Avenue.

Reading, who disposed of Sunderland in the previous round, find themselves at home to another club from the north-east, Newcastle United, today. On Monday Mirandinha is due to return to St James's Park following a loan period back in his native Brazil.

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

FA Cup fourth round

Arsenal v QPR
Peters, the recent signing from Charlton Athletic, is included in a 15-strong Arsenal squad. Thomas and Winterburn (both ankle) face fitness tests. QPR are without Falcão (knee). Clarke, starting his first game since November, deputises.

A Villa v Port Vale
Villa are expected to field the side which beat Southampton last season. Port Vale are without Miller (knee) face late fitness tests for Vale.

Barnsley v Ipswich
Barnsley give Agnew (Achilles) a late fitness test. Banks and Thomas stand by to deputise. Ipswich return from suspension. Humes is back for Ipswich after injury, but there is still no place for Gayle following his recent £250,000 move from Manchester City.

Blackpool v Torquay
Grove, a £20,000 signing from Leicester, makes his debut in the Blackpool attack. Brock (knee) faces a late fitness test. Torquay are unchanged.

Bristol City v Chelsea
Even though Leaning is fit to resume in goal, Sinclair, a signed on a free transfer from Leeds, makes his place in an unchanged City side. Roberts returns for Chelsea after suspension and is expected to start in the midfield.

C Palace v Huddersfield
Salako replaces Wright (broken leg) in attack for Palace. Gray returns to the midfield after suspension but McColl, O'Flaherty and Dennis are injured. Huddersfield recall Coates, who is on the transfer list, in place of O'Connell, who is Cup-tied.

Millwall v Cambridge
Sawley, Smith (knee) and Miller (knee) in defence, and make a late decision over whether to operate a three-man attack of Sherrington, Goddard, and Campbell. Cambridge are unchanged.

Oldham v Brighton
Oldham, who are without Burn, give Warhurst (ankle) and Irwin (groin) late fitness tests but neither place in an unchanged Brighton (hamstring) still absent Brighton are unchanged. Dublin continuing alongside Gilling in central defence.

Reading v Newcastle
Tait (heel) faces a late fitness test for Reading. Quinn returns from suspension for Newcastle, who welcome Simpson back at full-back, but Brock is still sidelined.

Rochdale v Northampton
Elliott (leg) in Rochdale's only doubt. Chard, Quow, and Brown, are fit again and could be recalled by Northampton.

Sheffield U v Watford
United choose from 14. Watford defer selection.

Southampton v Oxford
Case (ankle) and La Tisser (groin) are doubtful for Southampton. Shawyer and Medford stand by. Rudcock could return in defence. Oxford replace Dunnin (suspended), their leading scorer, with Penney.

WBA v Charlton
West from away the results of late fitness tests of North, and Talbot, the player-manager. Charlton have Lee and Leaburn back.

Tomorrow
Hereford v Man Utd
Hereford are unchanged. United are without Bruce (suspended), Robinson (groin), and Philen (Achilles). Donaghy plays his first game since November 4, following a loan spell at Luton.

Norwich v Liverpool
Norwich are likely to be unchanged. Liverpool, still without Houghton (leg), are also expected to be unchanged.

Sheff Wed v Everton
Watson is fit again and could replace Keown in the heart of the Everton defence. Ebrell is a likely substitute. Francis, Wednesday's recent signing is unfit and ineligible, but Nilsson is expected to return in defence after injury.

ITV seek a championship repeat

Arsenal will meet Liverpool in a live television game on Wednesday night, April 18, the Football League announced yesterday. The two sides had been due to meet at Highbury on February 24, but Independent Television wanted to broadcast the game nearest the end of season in the hope that, as last year, it might have a bearing on the championship.

As a result of the switch, Arsenal's scheduled home game against Southampton on April 16 has been postponed to give the players time to prepare. No new date has yet been fixed. Arsenal will also be without a match on February 10. Their fixture against Nottingham Forest has been postponed because

their proposed opponents will be involved in another television game, the following day. The first leg of the Littlewood's Cup semi-final between Forest and Coventry City will be shown live by ITV on Sunday February 11, four days before the first leg of the other semi-final.

The Brazilian forward, Mirandinha, has returned to Newcastle United after a period on loan to Palmeiras, in Brazil, his former club.

Paul Hardyman, of Sunderland, is to seek a personal hearing after being charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute. He was reported by the referee, Ian Hendrick, for an incident involving Mark

Proctor after the recent match at Middlesbrough.

Steve Archibald, the Scottish forward, is likely to resume his career in Spain this weekend - after buying out the remainder of his contract with Hibernian.

Archibald, aged 33, negotiated the conditions of his release today, before flying to Barcelona to discuss a signing offer from second division Espanol.

GENEVA (Reuters) - UEFA yesterday announced a one-season ban on Greek champions AEK Athens because of misbehaviour by their spectators in a European Cup match against Marseilles last November.



Voice of experience: Jordan gives his Bristol City players some words of advice about how to play Chelsea in the fourth round of the FA Cup this afternoon

Jordan returns to higher ground

By Clive White

One can understand Bristol Rovers' resentment, even jealousy. Still, however, still pessimistic, Rovers have nevertheless handed themselves back up to the third division table this season only to find Bristol City smiling down upon them from the peak.

On top of that, City are enjoying another profitable year with many suspect will not be held by Chelsea today in the FA Cup fourth round. The rise and fall of Bristol City have been an example to all. Rovers included. Since the day, eight years ago, when several of these professional players obligingly ripped up their contracts to allow the Robins to be born again, the story has been one of steady rather than spectacular growth.

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The transfer of Carl Shutt is the opposite direction slightly eased the cash outlay but as Joe

Jordan, the City manager, conceded: "It was a massive amount of money for us. But it was money that had been earned."

It has not taken a novice manager like Jordan long to learn the rudiments of good housekeeping. City might say that it comes as second nature to a canny Scot, but then Jordan has always had the fortunes of City at heart.

When the board accepted the recommendation by Terry Cooper, the departing manager, that his former Leeds colleague and assistant should be given the job, Jordan immediately sought the advice of his peers about how best to run the club.

Should he go for short-term success and safeguard his own neck or take the longer, more perilous but ultimately more rewarding route? For a man who found fame as a player by putting his head where it hurt, Jordan's answer was clear.

"I want for a five-year plan to develop the youth policy and concentrate on our school of excellence and associated schools," he said. "We've got to get up to speed with the boys from leaving the Bristol area."

"We hope to get a community thing going where not only do we have boys who see their livelihood as professionals, but some who see their sport as a hobby as football and want to get attached to Bristol City. We want a union here."

"I can't see Bristol continuing to be successful unless we get something through from the youths, though. Of the older boys, we have four browsing ones aged between 17 and 19. The future of the club lies with them."

"Things underneath are coming along. In the long run the club will benefit but whether or not it's me that reaps some of that benefit remains to be seen."

Jordan's two-year contract expires in the summer, and while he is anxious to take root after his wanderings around Europe as a player, he is aware that his performance in that short time has made him a target of bigger clubs than Bristol City.

He has had some good teachers in his time. Don Revie, Dave Sexton, and Lawrie McMenemy. His association with Revie taught him the basics of organisation and discipline.

Little tactical victories, like the marking job done on Clough and Hodge in both legs of last season's Littlewoods Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest, have set him apart from other emerging young managers.

For the time being, at least, he is content to continue his apprenticeship with City. In his

place. We may have seen the last of Fanga.

"I haven't played all season and I don't expect to again except in an absolute emergency," he said. "Mind you, I reckon I could still play at this level with a proper pre-season training behind me."

There is a self-confidence about this modest, quietly spoken man from Carlisle in Lancashire that must filter through to his players.

"I had to make a lot of important decisions as a player but I can honestly say I've never regretted any of them," he said. "Like the decision to leave Manchester United for AC Milan. It was one of the hardest. A lot of things went wrong for me in Italy, my own form suffered, the club was relegated, and yet it was the best thing I ever did."

"Almost anyone who has played in Italy will tell you that it improved them as a player. The standard is very high and with lesser games you have time to learn your craft."

Jordan hopes to return to Italy this summer as a liaison officer to the Scotland team for the World Cup. It is an appointment by the Italian organisers who remember Jordan for his close affinity with the country. Jordan strove hard to learn the language, his wife speaks it fluently and he fits in with the Italian way of life.

For the time being, at least, he is content to continue his apprenticeship with City. In his

first season, he took them to within one play-off match of promotion. Last season, for all the Littlewoods Cup glory, was a disappointment.

After several seasons of near misses he decided upon fairly drastic changes. Only three players - Newman, Bailey, and Gavin remain from the side who drew the admiration of the nation in the televised second leg against Forest.

He has been similarly ambitious to play with wingers Gavin and Smith. "They've been terrific, because they've given us a wee bit of consistency which is something wingers don't always do," he said.

The outlay on Taylor was another bold gamble which has proved successful. "He is a strong lad who scored 17 goals this season and not one top-in. They were all spectacular. He could do with a few more tops," he said. By current valuations, Taylor is reckoned to be worth about three times what Jordan paid for him.

Apart from the 25,000 crowd they expect to receive for Chelsea's visit, City are taking nothing for granted. Neither victory over a team who have proved susceptible in cup competition over the years nor promotion, which one would expect to be a certainty, explains why the team's special treat this week was a fish-and-chips lunch at Weston-Super-Mare.

FA asked to revise cup final ticket policy

By Ian Ross

The Football Association has been asked by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, to consider changes to its ticket allocation policy for cup finals.

Sir Gordon has lent his full support to a report produced by Liverpool City Council trading standards officers which calls upon the FA to make immediate revisions to its controversial ticket distribution method.

The report suggests that the FA (1) increases the number of tickets to finalists when well-supported teams are involved; (2) takes average home attendance into account when allocating tickets; (3) notes that ticketing fell by 83 per cent for last year's final (Everton v Liverpool) when more tickets were sold; and (4) considers making public the names of players, clubs and officials receiving fines and bans for passing on tickets to tourists.

However, Sir Gordon said that he was unable to recommend legislation to ministers to make the FA allocate their tickets in a specific way.

"The ball is now very much back in the Football Association's court. If they fail to respond to the director general's suggestions, public and political pressure will continue to grow to force the FA to change."

Hannah Polan, who chairs Liverpool City Council's consumer protection sub-committee, said: "The report from the council shows that Liverpool supporters paid as much as £250,000 to tour in 1988 for tickets before the FA Cup final against Wimbledon."

After that particular match trading standards officers produced a dossier naming more than 50 football clubs and county football associations who were alleged to have broken FA rules by having their tickets passed on to tourists.

All at sea over World Cup

By Clive White

For those who like to take a little bit of England with them when they go abroad, an organisation called World Cup Cruise yesterday announced a novel - and not inexpensive - way of seeing the Italian finals. For as little as £1,800 or as much as £9,000, you can watch part of the championship, without barely setting foot upon Italian soil.

The idea, conveniently supported by the chaos of the World Cup draw in Rome, in December, seems to be why put up with the vagaries of Italian hotel service when you can be pampered aboard four-star and five-star luxury liners.

The company is selling a limited range of luxury cruise packages in the United Kingdom and internationally on board the Sea Goddess 1 and Sea Goddess 2, two of the Costa Line's Danes, which is dedicated to the English market.

In case any friction does arise between the well-heeled English, Dutch and Irish supporters, Millbourne pointed out that there would be a "number of people" Robert Millbourne, the sales and marketing director, said yesterday. "We offer the opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of activity to a floating hotel which provides every facility."

The concept, supported by the presence of Bobby Moore, the captain who steered England to victory in 1966, will not appeal

to more free spirit. Some Italians may even be offended, as one remarked yesterday: "You might as well stay at home and watch it on television and eat our fish and chips."

The packages are priced between £8,000 and £9,000 for the Sea Goddess vessels and from £1,800 to £7,700 for the Danes. The price of a 13-night cruise covering five matches including the three England group matches and two others in Group F, is £3,700. And for £9,000 you can cruise for eight nights around the Sea Goddess and watch the semi-finals and final.

Passengers will embark in either Monte Carlo or Civitavecchia, the port of Rome and "cruise in absolute style and comfort from one match to the next."

The organisers summed up: "It is a breath of fresh air for cruising which traditionally has a rather staid, stuffy image and for football which is currently suffering from a bit of an image problem."

Scottish markets is available. There are also a few luxury motor yachts on offer, accommodating between six and 16 persons.

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FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: France beat Germany 76-72 in the final. France also beat Germany 76-72 in the semi-final. France beat Germany 76-72 in the quarter-final. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 16. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 32. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 64. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 128. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 256. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 512. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 1024. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 2048. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 4096. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 8192. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 16384. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 32768. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 65536. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 131072. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 262144. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 524288. France beat Germany 76-72 in the round of 1048576. 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The Times reports from the XIV Commonwealth Games in Auckland

Pride is prime motive force for Coe

David Miller

In all three of Sebastian Coe's greatest championship races, there has been an element of revenge. Twice, in the Olympic 1,500 metres in Moscow and the European 800 metres in Stuttgart, it was against his own previous failures. Once, in the 1,500 metres in Los Angeles, it was against those who saw fit to exclude him 18 months ago, from a third Olympic team.

There is a trace of that last mood in his attempt here to win a first Commonwealth title in his 34th year: a last flourish of defiance directed at those who saw fit to exclude him 18 months ago, from a third Olympic team.

Yet the aggression which lies within him, apparent after the Los Angeles victory is less a motive force than exceptional pride in performance. To put it simply, he wants the books to look correct before history moves forward to another generation of runners.

"Deciding to continue running after 1988, having controversially missed the Olympics," Coe said, "was not a matter of saying 'I'll show you' to anyone who considered that my exclusion was justified by the selection system in operation. It was a matter of personal pride, of not wanting the Olympic trials at Birmingham to be the last memory of my running. I am always at my most unreasonable when people start writing me off."

In the Seventies, before Coe first emerged on the championship scene to take a bronze medal in the European 800 metres with an unprecedented, exploratory sub 50-second first lap, Brendan Foster, then the doyen of British middle-distance runners, had given him an invaluable piece of advice.

"Don't ever be advised,"

David Miller

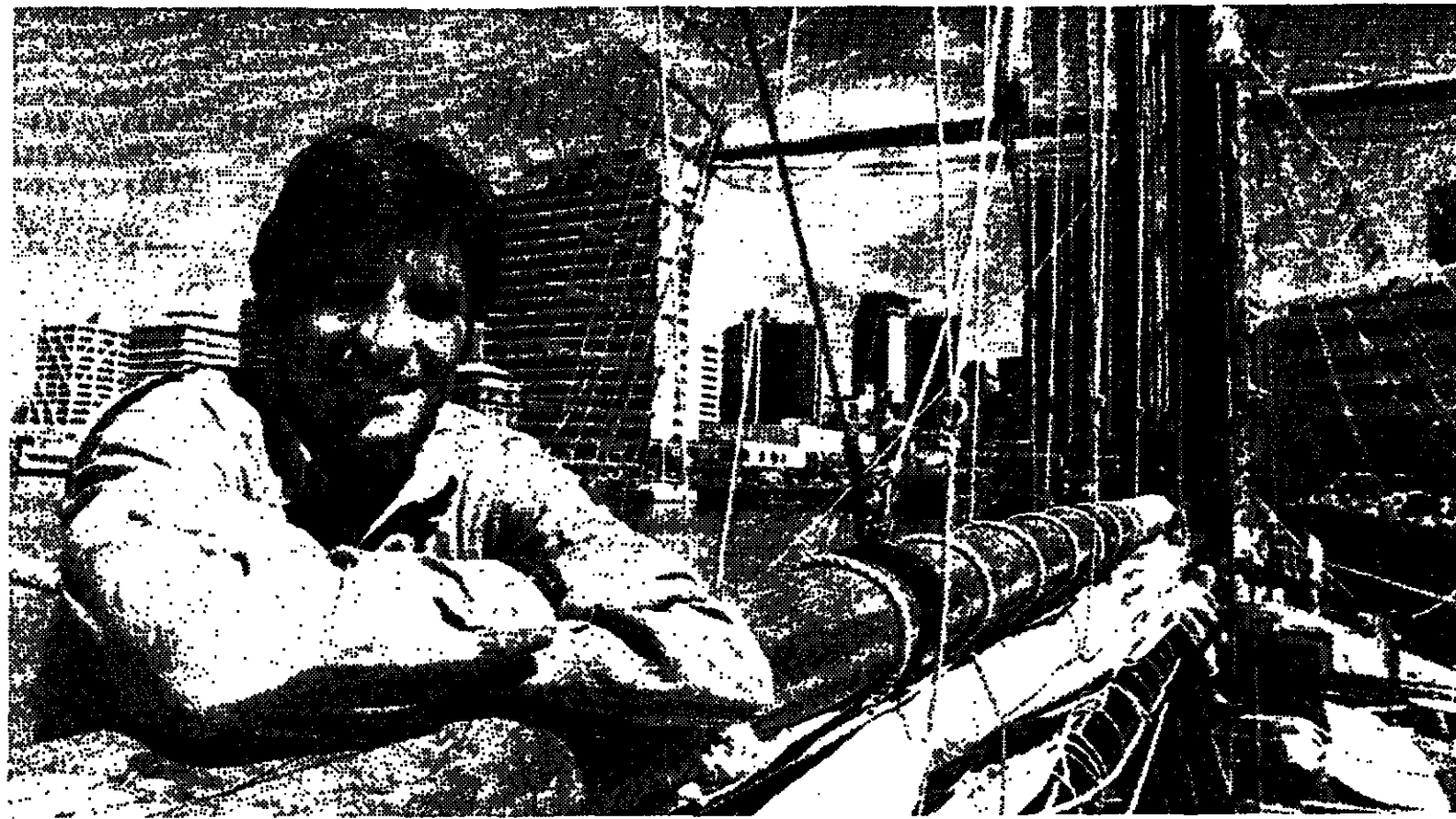
Foster had said, "that there is anything more important than championships: never mind the records or one-night stands in Zurich or Oslo. At the end of your career, they count your medals, not your records. It's a harsh business."

Coe knew, at the end of 1988, that he had at least one more good year left in his legs. The World Cup would provide an objective, and when he found the season going well, an extension of four months training to the Commonwealth Games, which he had missed because of examinations in 1978 and illness in 1982 and 1986 — seemed worthwhile.

To ensure that he gained selection and that he reached Auckland in the best possible shape, he reverted to that successful pattern of previous championship years: a marked reduction in racing, even if at a substantial financial loss.

"I wanted gently to remind people that I was still capable of running among world-class performers in world-class times," Coe said. "The World Cup was a race I could be proud of, giving Abdi Bile as hard a run as he's had for a year or so, and that set me up for a final major championship. I've always admired those who ended this way, like Elliot in Rome, Snell in Tokyo, Foster in Moscow. And even at my age, the Commonwealth Games was still something of a fresh challenge."

He has no idea of his chances, knowing only that he will have to run really well if he is to win medals. He is



Sightseeing: Coe, his training for the Commonwealth Games behind him, relaxes aboard the yacht, Spirit of New Zealand, in Auckland Harbour yesterday

relying on the principle of previous multiple-race championships: utilizing the 800 metres race to provide the winter sharpening of the 1,500, yet recognizing that he needs to back off in training a few days earlier now than before. That was, in fact, yesterday: with two rounds of the 800 due on Monday.

"I must have fresh legs," he said. "It was a factor when I was 27 in Los Angeles and 29 in Stuttgart, and it's even more so now that I'm 33."

Coe is convinced that Brit-

ain's enduring success in middle-distance running comes from the traditional pattern of the winter being a genuine close season, with little indoor racing or road running, and a modicum of cross country. The winter makes sure that runners are not racing at the wrong time of year, and the hardest part of preparation for Auckland has been the altered mental discipline.

"No matter how many times you tell yourself," Coe said, "when training in two tracksuits and a waterproof at

Haringey or Twickenham, it has been difficult to recognize that the Commonwealth Games were only a few weeks away. The realization suddenly came home when I arrived in Melbourne a month ago."

The physical bit has not been too hard: reducing his September break to one and a half weeks instead of four, and then gradually winding up the endurance schedule in October and November instead of April and May, though he found himself having to be

careful not to accelerate racing-condition too fast before he reached a warm climate. He feels the speed has come back in time. But enough to win? He thinks Tom McKean is the favourite, and not merely with the bookmakers at home. "I've no response on forecasts either way," he said.

"I just have to hope my preparation has been as good and consistent as it could have been. If someone else is faster or tactically better on the day, well, that's life."

For someone who conceded

to Steve Overt that maybe the pair of them were too old for the 800 metres six years ago in Los Angeles, Coe remains surprisingly buoyant and optimistic. My own feeling is that if the weather remains hot, to keep his muscles fluid — post-race warming down will be critical — then his better chance lies in the 1,500, with Wilfred Kirochi, the world junior champion, and Peter Elliott, the Olympic silver medal winner, the two to beat. What a finale to a career!

Ominous Kenyan challenge

From David Miller

Nixon Kiprotich, the tall, slender Kenyan who played such a critical role in the Olympic 800 metres victory in Seoul of his colleague Peter Elliott, was out in the 800-degree heat of yesterday afternoon doing 300 metres repetitions with Sammy Throp. It was an ominous sight.

John Mwangi, Kenya's middle-distance coach who studied at the British Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot, says that Kenya will be running a team race in next Thursday's final, assuming their three runners, including Robert Kibet, come through Monday's heats and semi-finals, which are barely three hours apart.

Sebastian Coe and Tom Billy, of England, and Dean McKean, of Scotland, are going to be confronted with tactics as well as extreme heat.

Kiprotich, who works in the civil service in Nairobi, says that if the weather stays really hot — at present dry and particularly similar to the high-altitude East African climate — he thinks he can run under 1min 43sec.

His personal best is 1:43.38, in Zurich last year, one of two races in which he defeated McKean, who twice beat him in the cold of Edinburgh and the World Cup in Barcelona.

In the 800-degree heat of last year, he ran 1:43.38 and, although his nine-year-old world record is more than one and a half seconds faster, it is unlikely that he can now run under 1:43.

As we made our way back to the village yesterday, by now almost deserted training track, Mwangi would not allow Kiprotich to discuss the tactics; though Kiprotich says he intends to make it very hard over the last 300 metres, which might be his last-best kick.

In Seoul, it was Kiprotich who, in the early part of the race, took the sting out of Joachim Cruz and opened the way for Erang. Mwangi says that tactics will to some extent depend on the weather, but he says that the day — "it depends how they wake up in the morning" — in both the 800 and 1500, the Kenyan trio in the latter being Wilfred Kirochi, Joseph Chastre (a 1984 Olympic finalist) and a promising, little-known William Tausi.

There has been confusion on the Kenyan domestic front, with not only the exclusion of Erang and Peter Rono (1500), the Olympic winners, but changes from the coaching set-up in Seoul. Sean Kibet, the chief coach of 1988, is no longer in charge, though Mwangi says that new coaches "are being given a chance."

Mwangi says that he has been working with Kiprotich, Throp and Kibet for the past six years or so, and that, such as Kenya's untapped talent, almost any of their runners is capable of winning a major race on the day. He withdrew sharply from any discussion of the absence of Erang and Rono: "A management decision, please don't ask me about it," he said agitatedly.

I suspect the United States-based runners, being asked to pay their own expenses for returning to run in the trials, preferred to continue competing for money in America. Either way, the Kenyan contingent here will face a marathoner's challenge from this nation of natural fit runners.

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Moneghetti has edge over Wakiuhuri

From David Powell

The Australian team for the Commonwealth Games marathon at Edinburgh in 1986 was one short. Steve Moneghetti volunteered. As the inexperienced runner, he had no medal hopes, but he was the only one to show up before going out to the start was the last thing that Moneghetti needed.

"They showed a video of the Swiss guy [Gabriel Androsch-Schaefer] staggering to the finish of the world championship in 1982. I had never covered the distance, and the last person I saw before I went out was someone all over the track. It started me wondering if that would be me in two hours' time."

But two hours later, Moneghetti was working his way through to the third position. Like Rosa Mota, of Portugal, later the Olympic champion, at the European championships in 1982, he had made a medal in the event he had wanted to run rather than the one for which he had been chosen.

"The only reason I was eligible was that we had only two

runners in the marathon and each country was allowed three. With the 10,000 metres (for which he was chosen) and the week before and my coach being a national selector, I was lucky enough to be allowed to run in the marathon."

Lucky selectors. Now they have one of the finest marathon runners in the world, one who has set outstanding examples of upholding his country's traditions over the distance in the Commonwealth Games. Australia held a monopoly on Commonwealth marathon titles in the 1980s, two for Bob de Castella and one for Lisa Martin when the women were allowed to run it for the first time in 1986.

The marathon took place on Tuesday, for the men, and Wednesday, for the women. Moneghetti is as good as favourite as there is in any athletics event but de Castella's crown is slipping. In what is prospectively one of the most fascinating races of the games, Australian hopes rest more with Moneghetti.

Three years since Edinburgh, he has finished fourth in the 1987 World Championship, fifth in the 1988 Olympics, and second in last year's London marathon. His fourth place in the World Games Commonwealth Games last year underlined his consistency but he has not yet been a marathon winner. One man who keeps getting in his way, the Kenyan, Douglas Wakiuhuri, is standing there again.

"It's a great time I did win, but with Wakiuhuri running, it's a pretty onerous task to think I'm going to have this time," Moneghetti, aged 27, said. It was one of the best finishes in London had witnessed. Moneghetti's reputation for humour had now surfaced. "It could have been a little better for me."

Wakiuhuri has run three of the four marathons in which Moneghetti has appeared and beaten him every time. 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GOLF

Duck proves just the confidence booster for Lyle

From Patricia Davies, Phoenix

Sandy Lyle will not be dunking the duck just yet. Having had a round of 67, four under par, just two shots behind the leading quartet, in the first round of the Phoenix Open, he intended carrying his long, black Stinsons Duck putter at least for yesterday's second round.

His start, however, was delayed because of frost, not an uncommon phenomenon in the desert at this time of year.

"It's a boost to my confidence," he said simply of the putter, after a round that included five birdies on greens that were variously described as "ugly", "pitiful", "unplayable" and "awful".

And those were only the comments of people in contention, like Mark Calcavecchia, the defending champion, who shot 67, and Tom Purtzer, who shared the lead with Bobby Wadkins, Lance Ten Broek and Tommy Armour.

Lyle noted in practice that the greens were bumpy and in poor condition and it was brought home forcibly in the first round when he watched Paul Azinger, one of his playing partners, chipping in from two feet. There was an enormous spike mark between Azinger's ball and the cup on the 7th green, their 10th and, as Lyle commented, "a

chip was the only way he could have holed it". Lyle himself had holed from 30 feet for a birdie two, showing quite an affinity with his unyielding-looking putter with a pot-smasher for a head and a ski pole for a shaft.

At the 9th, his last hole, he nearly holed his second shot, with a wedge. It landed two feet short of the hole, hopped a foot past it and then rolled back past the cup, coming to rest 12 inches away. The duck did the rest.

Watched by a large crowd that included a woman with a Union Jack stuck behind her ear and a man in pseudo-tartan shorts with a Balmoral on his head, Lyle started well, with three birdies in his first six holes, two of them par fives which he reached in two.

At the 13th, at 576 yards the longest of the three par fives, he hit a superb two-iron to 30 feet, from a gravelly, sandy lie in the desert, which made it difficult to get a secure foothold. At the 15th, 501 yards, he took two putts from 60 feet.

Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65: B Wadkins, T Armour, L Ten Broek, T Purtzer, 67: S Lyle (68), M Calcavecchia, R Foltz, M McInnis, Hoot, D Barr (70), S J D Blake, B Gardner, C Pavin, L Wadkins, C Burroughs, S Pate.

Why a young man need not go west

By Mel Webb

Once upon a time the breeding ground for the ambitious in the glitzy world of show business was the Windmill Theatre, upon whose stage cavorted downy-cheeked comedians and young women whose stately bearing was matched only by their distinct lack of clothing. The Windmill never closed, it was said, and many were the legends of the darker parts of Soho who could bear witness to the fact.

In professional golf, however, there is no need to venture up west. The place to be seen and, if possible, to be seen winning, is Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club towards the end of September each year, in the Equity and Law Challenge.

This competition, which rewards aggressive golf by giving points for birdies and eagles but lets bogeys or worse pass unpunished, has been run for three years, and its list of winners testifies that this is indeed the way to the stars.

SKIING

Snowfalls are no help

The men's World Cup downhill event at Val d'Isère yesterday was postponed, because heavy snowfalls left inadequate visibility on the course (Ray Robinson writes).

The race was rescheduled for 11am today. A second downhill

is planned for tomorrow and a super giant slalom for Monday. A women's World Cup downhill race in Santa Caterina, Italy, was called off yesterday because of snow. The Italian organizers hoped to rerun the race this morning.

FISHING

Strange case of the poisoned feral fish

By Conrad Voss Bark

Curious reports about the killing of wild salmon to prevent disease in fish farms are given in a bulletin of The Steelhead Society of British Columbia.

It says that two German members of the society have reported that efforts are being made "in some areas of Norway" to get rid of the native wild salmon to protect salmon farms from disease. They say that wild salmon arrive in the river with bacteria to which they are immune. However, farm salmon "have a low disease tolerance" and are infected. Therefore some aquaculture staff are using poison on some rivers to get rid of all wild fish.

The Steelhead Society bulletin refers to information given by a biologist, Bill Bakke, in an American magazine about the dangers to wild salmon of steelhead (migratory trout) are facing. Hatcheries are causing the degradation of all wild stocks, he writes.

"Furthermore, when a hatchery goes on line it becomes the primary focus of fish management," he comments. "Especially, fish pathologists who are worried about protecting hatcheries from disease have begun to call wild steelhead and salmon feral fish which need to be controlled to protect the hatcheries."

"Wild winter steelhead were targeted for termination on the Santiam River in order to protect

a hatchery programme from the IHN virus. One hatchery advocate recently said at a meeting of biologists in Idaho that something has to be done about the horrible wide-ranging run of wild anadromous fish in order to protect our watersheds and hatcheries from disease."

These reports should be regarded with reserve. Some Norwegian rivers have been treated with Rotenone, but this has been to kill all diseased fish in the river. The deputy director of the Atlantic Salmon Trust, Captain J. B. D. Reed, who was at a conference in Norway recently, told me that relations between fishery owners and fish farmers appeared good, which would hardly be the case if the farmers had been poisoning wild fish which were not diseased.

Wild and farm fish risked disease, and farm fish were often more vulnerable because of the conditions under which they lived, but he had never heard of any suggestion that as a result wild fish should be got rid of. He said: "My instant reaction is one of horror."

The Steelhead Society bulletin containing the accusation of killing the wild fish is being sent to the Atlantic Salmon Trust at its offices in Fifeburgh.

Crossword winners

Mr W. E. A. Skinner, of St Julians Close, London, SW16, is the winner of the first prize in *The Times* Jumbo Sports Crossword published on December 23. Mr Skinner has a choice of a day out for two as the guest of the sponsors at one of these major events: the Coral Golden Hurdle Final at Cheltenham on March 14; the Seagram Grand National at Aintree on April 7; and the Littlewoods Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on April 29.

The runner-up, who will have second choice from the prize list, is J.R. Dixon, of Whitefriars, Rushden, Northamptonshire. The third choice will be taken by Mr P. Holmes, of Devon Terrace, Berwick on Tweed.

There are special prizes of signed copies of three books by two of *The Times* sports writers, David Miller and Simon Barnes: one by each of them in the *Sportswriters' Eye* series, and Barnes's *A Sportsman's Year*. They have been won by Brian Burrows, of Beaconsfield, Green, Bucks; Mrs A. Wood, of Burnley, Lancashire;

W. J. Parker, of Newport, Gwent; D. Wright, of Barlaston, Stoke on Trent; Mr David Jones, of Godalming, Surrey; Mr Brian H. Linn, of Barking, Essex; Mr Paul Batchelor, of Ears Court, London SW5; Mr Jack Walton, of Ewell, Surrey; Mr Sean Walsh, of Basildon, Essex; and Mr D.G. Morgan, of Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire. The solution was:

ACROSS: 1. Fairway; 2. Desert Orchid; 3. Hammer; 4. Road runner; 5. Ten Fush; 6. Back; 7. Arms; 8. Sweep; 9. Hare; 10. Ray; 11. Green; 12. Gate; 13. Moose; 14. Mount; 15. Dew; 16. Cream; 17. Quince; 18. Lure; 19. Tom Watson; 20. Tee; 21. PFA; 22. Nic; 23. Golf; 24. Mace; 25. Proclamation; 26. Synonym; 27. Newcastle United; 28. Sierra; 29. Bow; 30. Landdown; 31. Pyc; 32. Plane; 33. Torment; 34. Case; 35. Squire; 36. Mail; 37. Tilt; 38. Moore; 39. Tilt; 40. Boat; 41. Orie; 42. Aton; 43. Rush; 44. Bunker; 45. Fast greens; 46. Meadow; 47. Boundary Park; 48. Fiddle; 49. Man; 50. Manager; 51. Warr; 52. European; 53. East; 54. Triple; 55. Crown; 56. Ice; 57. Lure; 58. Hoot; 59. Hoot; 60. Hoot; 61. Hoot; 62. Hoot; 63. Hoot; 64. Hoot; 65. Hoot; 66. Hoot; 67. Hoot; 68. Hoot; 69. Hoot; 70. Hoot; 71. Hoot; 72. Hoot; 73. Hoot; 74. Hoot; 75. Hoot; 76. Hoot; 77. Hoot; 78. Hoot; 79. Hoot; 80. Hoot; 81. Hoot; 82. Hoot; 83. Hoot; 84. Hoot; 85. Hoot; 86. Hoot; 87. Hoot; 88. Hoot; 89. Hoot; 90. Hoot; 91. Hoot; 92. Hoot; 93. Hoot; 94. Hoot; 95. Hoot; 96. Hoot; 97. Hoot; 98. Hoot; 99. Hoot; 100. Hoot.

Keeping a horse in training this year could cost £20,000, as Graham Rock discovers

Paying the price for a dream

MARC ASPLAND



Mark Prescott supervises his string at Heath House stables in Newmarket. Like many trainers, Prescott has had to increase his fees substantially this year

If you decided to own a racehorse this year and sent it to one of the top Newmarket trainers, set aside £20,000; not for the purchase of a thoroughbred, but to pay the training bills and other associated fees to keep the object of your desire in action for 12 months.

The chances of recouping those costs are minimal. Each horse needs to win, on average, five races a year, to repay an owner's expenses and less than one horse in a hundred achieves that score. For every champion at stud worth millions of pounds, there are thousands of each horse each year who fail to win a race.

Recent increases in stable lads' wages and the new commercial rates, together with the advent of poll tax and inflationary price rises in raw materials, have brought significant increases in trainers' bills, in some cases more than 20 per cent, and now a basic £250 a week is charged by the top professionals at Newmarket. However, some owners are beginning to revolt.

Bill Gredley, a staunch supporter of the game since the late Seventies, has written to all his trainers informing them that he will not pay more than 12 per cent and the latest newsletter of the Racehorse Owners' Association carries an incisive editorial from its director-general, John Biggs.

"Owners are under no obligation to accept blindly whatever increases their trainers choose to pass on to them. Owners should ask for, and expect to receive, full justification for increased training fees."

"Trainers should accept that a proportion of the increases must be met by them and not passed on automatically to their owners. There is a free market and even now there is an enormous range of training fees on offer for the discriminating owner."

While most owners get what they pay for, it is often difficult to ascertain exactly what he is getting for his money. A generation ago, a stable lad would look after two horses, but this has risen to an accepted level of three per employee. The practice is by no means universal, though.

One northern trainer, who declined to be named, related: "A lad left my yard last year to work for another trainer but was there only a week before he joined a third stable; his first new employer expected him to do 16 horses."

Increases in training fees vary from seven per cent to well over 20 per cent. Mark Prescott, who sent out 40 winners last year from his Heath House stables at Newmarket, had one of the best winner-to-runner ratios. Re-

cently he raised his training fees by 21 per cent but, at under £200, is among the average for racing's headquarters.

"Last year we had quite a successful season," Prescott said. "But when my accountant had completed the annual figures, I had made £15,000, half the previous year's figure and less money than my head lad, although I should add that he is not overpaid. He's worth every penny and more."

"I agree with Bill Gredley. Owners and trainers are entitled to full justification of increases, and my own expenses have risen dramatically: wage costs by £30,000, rates by £10,000, the cost of shavings by £5,000."

"If I did things differently, I could save my owners some money. When a horse here becomes sick it is sent away to minimize the risk of infection, and the box is empty."

"There's no doubt, too, that horses are less prone to respiratory problems when bedded on shavings, rather than straw, and they recover more quickly. But it is much more expensive and the cost has doubled in a year."

"If I kept all the horses here

all the time and used straw, I could save £35,000. I could employ fewer staff, but there would be a consequent fall in the standard of stablecraft. The end result would be lower training bills but significantly fewer winners, and my owners enjoy having winners."

The National Trainers' Federation has instructed its members that there is no obligation to pay stable lads' poll tax, but some trainers have given their lads an increase which, taking account of income tax, covers the extra burden.

"Every trainer will make his own decision," Prescott said. "But if they have paid the lads' rates in the past, it seems logical to make a contribution."

Owners with horses at Newmarket pay capital health charges of £55 each month for every horse in training while private grooms face substantial annual bills to maintain their facilities.

Peter Watlyn, doyen of Lambourn trainers, has not yet calculated the extra charge his owners will pay in the

spring. "We'll have to make it as reasonable as we can," he said, adding that his 400 acres of galleys produced no profit. "Any other business would say we were cuckoo."

Ian Belding, too, will keep to a minimum the increase on his present fee of £170 a week. He trains at Kingsclere, using private galleys on the Berkshire Downs.

"They cost between £100,000 and £150,000 a year to maintain," Belding said. "Our gallop fees are £30 a week per horse, but they don't cover it. You need a class horse every three or four years to keep you going."

Epsom trainers, affected more than most by recent rate revisions, are likely to charge an average of £170 a week this year. One trainer, usually forthcoming, did not want to reveal his fees. "This is a cut-throat business. There might be someone down the road charging a couple of quid less and an impatient owner could move his horses there."

Away from the main southern training centres, owners' bills are cheaper. Many northern trainers will pay less rates in the first year of the new scheme. At Middleham, Chris

Thornton has just increased his fees by nine per cent to £143 a week, while across the Pennines in Lancashire, Jack Berry's owners face a second increase in six months.

"We didn't alter our charges for two or three years and then put them up from £105 to £120 a week at the end of last year," Berry said. "But since then we've had one increase on top of another."

"The lads deserved every penny they got, but hay has gone up by a third, horse nuts by £16 a ton, and shavings are much dearer. We'll have to charge about £134 in the spring."

In Somerset, Ron Hodges has just put up his fees from £95 to £105. "It won't really be enough but down here our owners can't afford any more. Mind you, we farm ourselves and grow our own straw and hay, which is easier than buying at top prices."

Bill Wightman, who has trained for more than 50 years, charged three guineas a week in 1935, and £11 in 1961, the equivalent of £105 today. "It's never gone down, it's always gone up," he said, and no one seemed able to explain why the cost of training horses

had outstripped inflation.

Rod Simpson, whose Lambourn string was halved when his principal patron, Terry Ramsden, pulled out a couple of years ago, is in trouble. "I have horrific mortgage payments, and there's no sign of new owners coming in."

Despite an annual turnover of 30 per cent in registered owners, the total is increasing but figures over the last three years suggest they are being buoyed up by the number of partnerships, which offer a taste of the action for a proportion of the cost, while the number of those able to pay for one or more horses in training is declining.

Training bills are not the only items to increase. In the recent past, owners have had to pay more for Jockey Club registrations, jockeys' retainers and riding fees, entry fees, transport costs and, often an expensive extra, veterinary charges.

Yet, despite these formidable financial burdens, enthusiasm burns bright. For those able to indulge, racing ownership remains one of the most delightful and rewarding entertainments devised by man.

Damers Cavalry stars in Lee's first treble

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Richard Lee, a former leading point-to-point trainer, had his first treble since taking out a full licence three years ago at Doncaster yesterday.

Bruce Dowling was the successful jockey as the victories of Courtbrook, Damers Cavalry and King Of The Lot provided a three-timer of over 20-1.

Damers Cavalry was the most impressive winner of the afternoon when storming home by a distance in the Balby Novices' Chase after Some Do Not, Nicky Henderson's runner, had fallen at the ninth fence when upstaged the 6-4 on favourite.

Now undefeated in his last three starts, Damers Cavalry is the apple of his trainer's eye. "He's a good honest horse. He's a star. He just gallops and stays. He wouldn't be out of the Sun Alliance at Cheltenham. But he could make a Grand National horse in two or three years' time."

Courtbrook, the trainer's first winner of the season, went clear at the final jump to beat Boutzdaroff by six lengths. Previously a winner at Leicester, Courtbrook obviously relished the faster going on the Town Moor. "We'll probably bring him back here as he likes the track and the going," said the trainer.

King Of The Lot, the final leg of the treble, won easily, galloping home 15 lengths clear of

Hitchcock. Only three of the four starters finished as Sword Beach fell at the sixth fence from home.

"He had back trouble in the autumn and was out for two months," commented the trainer. "He's like my other horses here today, he likes the faster ground."

Carol Lee, the trainer's wife, outlined big-race plans for Douglas and Miss Nero. "Douglas had an abscess in his foot which was lanced last Friday," she said. "Hopefully we'll get him to Nottingham on February 17 and then to Liverpool once again for the Martell Cup, in which he finished second to Yahoo last year."

That good mare Miss Nero will run at either Chepstow or Wetherby before attempting to improve on her third to fourth place in last March's Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle at the National Hunt Festival.

In the day's big race, the Rosington Main Novices Hurdle, Man Of The West was withdrawn. "He spread a plate and pricked his foot," said Tim Fitzgerald, the trainer's son. "We brought him to the course and thought it would be all right, but he developed some heat in it."

In the race itself Peanuts Pet gave Bryan McMahon handsome compensation for a disappointing performance behind

Redundant Pal in The Ladbrooke when proving too strong for Rakes Lane in a battle from the second last. The winning distance was a length and Sacre d'Or finished five lengths away third.

To Ireland Peanuts Pet, a well-backed outsider, had raced with the leaders until weakening turning into the straight, eventually finishing thirteenth.

They just went too quick for too long on ground that was a bit fast for him," explained the trainer, "and he'd have done better today with softer going. His target at Cheltenham will be the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices, the two mile race. And the more rain we have the better."

Cashew King, a half-brother to yesterday's winner, is to return to Cheltenham where last year he won the County Hurdle, this time for the Arkle Challenge Trophy. "We'll give him his Cheltenham preliminary in the Nottinghamshire Champion Novices Chase," added the trainer.

The biggest surprise of the afternoon came when Estonia, favourite at 5-2 on to win the Selby Selling Hurdle, was beaten 15 lengths by Premier Prince, on whom Gary Lyons put up 5lb overweight. Afterwards, an explanation was found as the beaten favourite had punctured an artery in his hind leg.

Doncaster waiting on Sanderson

John Sanderson does not expect to decide for a fortnight whether to accept Doncaster's offer to take over as clerk of the course when Pat Firth retires on March 10 (Michael Seely writes).

Speaking in Dublin, Sanderson said: "It's true that I've been approached by representatives of Doncaster about the clerk of the course's job, and I've indicated my willingness to help as much as I possibly can even if not on a permanent basis. At this stage, hearing in mind my other commitments, I haven't yet finalised precisely what I am going to do."

Since leaving York, where he was at different times clerk of the course and manager for 14 years, Sanderson has been involved in selling television sport through a company called CSI Ltd. He also went into joint management of Phoenix Park racecourse with Jonathan Irwin. He is currently clerk of the course on the Flat at Catterick Bridge and also a director of Weirpool.

Councillor Ron Gillies, chairman of the Doncaster race committee, said: "John seems very keen to help us. After the troubles we've had, we need someone of standing to take over from Pat Firth."

Councillor Gillies stressed that Firth's departure had nothing to do with the recent criticism of the Jockey Club report over the Leger week problems. Firth is 65 next May, and it is Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council policy that male employees must retire at that age.

Breakthrough on drug tests

The Australian Jockey Club has made a worldwide breakthrough in dope-testing with the detection of Timotei, a beta-blocker drug available at chemists with a prescription (Michael Seely writes).

The drug was found to have been administered to Consort, a filly who ran badly at Rosehill on January 6 when starting favourite. Reports of a doping gang in Sydney have been rare in recent weeks.

Commenting for the Jockey Club, David Pipe said: "There is no such thing as an undetectable drug, although it would be an exaggeration to claim that the laboratory picks up an administration on every occasion. Drugs which prove difficult to find today will certainly be found tomorrow."

Weirpool's quick encore earns rest

Michael Robinson, who has experienced setbacks recently with Valrodon and Remedy The Malady, enjoyed better fortune yesterday when Weirpool landed the Cotton Denham Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase at Wincanton.

Weirpool, who has provided Robinson with three of his seven successes this season, was never out of the first two but had a fight on his hands when Royal Battery, well backed from 11-2 to 4-1, joined him turning for home.

The pair were in the air together at the third last but, at the next fence, Royal Battery swerved as if trying to run out and unseated Nigel Hawke, leaving Weirpool to score by two lengths from Express Air.

Royal Battery's trainer, David Barons, thought that if Hawke had had his whip in his left hand he could have kept the horse straight and would have won. However, Robinson countered: "Mine would have found a bit more. Weirpool has come on this season. He's not overburdened with speed, but for a big horse he's quick in the air and his jumping wins him races. He's now won two in a week so I think we'll give him a short break."

Despite last Saturday's disappointments with his Grand National hope, Remedy The Malady, and the former New Malden hurdler, Valrodon, Robinson reiterated that there are no problems in his yard.

"Nearly all the horses are running well. Remedy The Malady tore all the muscles in his back at Warwick. He's very sore and has gone away for treatment. Valrodon's problem may be acclimatization. He looks and eats well, and appears sound."

Ganon, quietly fancied at 8-1, made all the running and held on well to win the Painters Handicap Hurdle by three-quarters of a length from Va Lute.

All Jeff aims for Cagnes

All Jeff, partnered by Guy Landau, looks almost certain to make his third appearance over fences at Cagnes-sur-Mer tomorrow (Our French Racing Correspondent writes).

The Charlie Brooks-trained course winner knocked himself earlier in the week, but connections are hopeful he will be fit enough to contest the £24,245 Grand Prix de la Ville de Nice, the richest steeplechase at the Riviera track.



Michael Robinson: second win in a week with Weirpool

much to the relief and delight of his trainer, Peter Hedger. "His owner, Rosalind Morris, has had horses with me since I started and I've never done anything right for her until today," Hedger explained.

Martin Pipe's Star Of Kuwait started a heavily-backed favourite at 13-8 but trailed home eleventh after making a couple of mistakes.

Strike threat

Betting shop workers employed by Coral bookmakers are threatening to strike on big-race days, including the Grand National, it was disclosed yesterday. Union leaders of the 3,500 staff are considering balloting members on industrial action over pay and conditions.

Lambourn Racehorse Transport confirmed yesterday that contracts have been exchanged in its purchase of Delemere stables, Lambourn, which has been empty since being vacated by retiring trainer Ray Laing at the end of last flat season.

When winning the Prix Alain de Brel in December, Peter Scudamore took over next time out, but the pair were brought down by the fall of Time

That race was won by Fortine, who held Affero in a tight finish. Both line up again here, but since All Jeff had Affero well beaten, he must have a fine chance of collecting this handsome prize.

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK



Complete exhibition of genius: Matthews, aged 41, showed all his tricks against Brazil at Wembley in 1956, and repeatedly left his marker, Nilton Santos, trailing as he supplied the crosses for his fellow forwards in a famous victory for England

Wizard whose skill passed test of time

West Germany came to Wembley in December 1954, five months after winning the World Cup. The England team selected to meet them was Williams (Wolves); Stanforth (Huddersfield); Byrne (Manchester United); Phillips (Portsmouth); Wright (Wolves); Slater (Wolves); Matthews (Blackpool); Bentley (Chelsea); Allen (West Bromwich); Shackleton (Sunderland); Finney (Preston). Allen was the dextrous centre-forward of a West Bromwich team that had unexpectedly defeated Preston, and Finney, in the Cup Final. This had been the one conspicuous failure in Finney's illustrious career. Personally, I was sorry that Slater, studious left-half for Wolves though he was, had been preferred to the gifted Barlow of West Bromwich, who had gained his only cap a couple of months before in Belfast.

Germany came to Wembley with a team being remodelled by Herberger and containing only three of the side that had won the Cup: Posipal, the captain, Kohlmeyer at full back and Liebrich at centre-half. Kohlmeyer has now been dead some years, but Liebrich has a clear memory of Germany's humbling experience that autumn afternoon at Wembley.

"My style was fairly similar to the English game, and with this being my tenth international, I was not expecting an especially hard afternoon (Liebrich says). We planned no particular change of tactics, but the performance of Matthews that day put him at the very peak of international players, someone like Maradona or Beckenbauer. As soon as he had the ball, he dominated us. From the touch-line, Herberger told us to try to stop the ball getting to Matthews, and told Kohlmeyer to retreat when Matthews did have it, as that was the only possibility. I went over to the left to try to halt him, and twice he went round me as if I wasn't there. At half-time we didn't alter our tactics, but kept trying to play our own game as the best method of breaking England's domination. It was an honour to play against Matthews on such a day. Byrne made a great impression at left back, and so did Seeler for us in his second international, though he missed a couple of chances."

At inside left for the Germans was Jupp Durwall, at 27 not in the flush of youth: some twenty-odd years later he became national team manager following Helmut Schoen, who succeeded Herberger. Playing on the left side, he vividly remembers Kohlmeyer's embarrassment.

"I was inside left, and so many times I tried to stop Matthews, yet I hadn't a chance. It was terrible for us, it could have been five or six instead of 3-1.

Kohlmeyer was saying to me, 'What can I do against this man, what's happened to my concentration?' In the dressing-room afterwards, Kohlmeyer didn't say a word, he just sat on the floor with his head in his hands, and he was still there after the rest of us had dressed, and we had to wait for him in the bus before we could leave. He was in a daze, I've never seen anything like it. When Matthews was dribbling, he was not looking at the ball, he was looking at Kohlmeyer or Liebrich. He was so special, and a great sportsman. Yet he played so many opponents out of their team. Kohlmeyer was one of them. When Muenzenberg, our full back who had played against Matthews before the war, saw this performance, he said, 'Maybe I should still be playing at fifty.'"

Seeler had not even been born when Matthews first played for England, yet the following morning the newspaper correspondents were struggling to find words adequate to

Sir Stanley Matthews will be 75 on Thursday. His claim to greatness rests on a career which lasted for 33 years. David Miller considers the extraordinary twilight of Matthews's international career

describe this performance of a man two months short of his fortieth birthday. My own recollection is like that of watching a father showing off when playing football with his small sons on the beach and never letting them have the ball. The German defenders kept taking huge swipes at Stanley's legs, yet the ball and he were never there. He moved about the field as though with some magnetic attraction for the ball. I had heard crowds laugh when he tormented a full back in League football, yet this is possibly the only time it has ever been heard in an international match, and poor Kohlmeyer was several times reduced to hooting the ball high into the crowd when Matthews was not even within yards of him, simply because his nerve had gone.

England's next match was the annual springtime encounter against Scotland, the uneven year being at Wembley. The selectors played their usual private game of shuffling the cards and came up, as so often, with an odd hand: a new left back, Meadows of Manchester City, and right half, Armstrong of Chelsea, for each of whom this would be the only international appearance; the recall in attack of Wilshaw, Lofthouse and Revie; and, for the first time, at left half, the phenomenal and ill-fated Duncan Edwards, of Manchester United, ahead of whom in a gloriously meteoric career lay no more than 18 caps before United's plane crash.

The Scottish left back, on an afternoon when they were to be almost ritually slaughtered by Stanley and his colleagues — though most memorably by Stanley — was Harry Haddock, aged 25:

"When I played at Wembley, Matthews was only a name, though I'd seen the '53 Cup final on television. On the day of the match, Scottish FA officials were saying to me, 'Go at him, he's got no left foot'. I tried this the first time, Stan went inside me, and shivered the cross-bar with his left foot. Don't let anyone tell you he has any deficiency other than heading. With his skill, he had no need to head. To this day, I believe I should have allowed him more to go down the touchline. My asset was speed, to be able to get in a second tackle after recovering. At Wembley, I once made three tackles on Stan between the half-way line and the goal-line, and he still crossed the ball."

"He'd walk towards you, with the ball on his right foot, faint to his left, and you'd go with him to your right.

He'd touch the ball the other way, and be gone. You'd see it, and could do nothing. I knew that's what he'd do, and I wanted him to do it, to force him down the line, because I thought I had the speed, if I was still on the inside, to stay with him. But he lost me. The game in those days was more physical, yet not as dirty as it is now. Stan had a fantastic match, but I never tried to injure him, and the extraordinary thing was, once he'd gone past you, it seemed he'd forgotten about you. Football's an entertainment sport. People don't pay four quid to see me kick Matthews. I'm still repeatedly asked, 'How did it feel?' That day was something special to me, and for a lot of other people, and although we lost, it's something I treasure and no one can take away from me. It was marvellous to discover that he was so brilliant yet still just like any other fellow.

I was sorry we lost badly (7-2), but it might have been different if I'd been allowed to play the way I would have preferred. In those days you did as you were told. I'm sorry there's not the camaraderie in the game that there was then; nowadays footballers seem to be in opposition all the time, whereas then you were just opponents for an hour and a half.

"I was always a part-time professional, and the game for me was always a pleasure. I went to shake hands with Stan at the end and he said, 'The ball was running for me today, I think.' He wasn't big-headed, though he had enough reason to be. He had a fantastic reputation up here because of what he'd done to Scotland over the years, and when he played in a charity match in the early Eighties, when he must have been nearly seventy, twenty thousand people turned up at Grangemouth, which is thirty miles from the city centre. Whenever he played up here, there were men taking their children to see him in case it was the last opportunity."

The following season, Stanley played in the autumn international against Wales, in which England had suffered one of their rare defeats in Cardiff, losing 2-1. This had convinced the selectors for the twentieth time that he was too old, and once more Finney had been switched to the right wing against Ireland, Spain and Scotland, with Bill Perry, Stanley's Blackpool colleague, receiving his initiation on the left. Such was Stanley's form with Blackpool, that the selectors yielded to popularity — too often was Popularity the first name on their team sheet — and recalled him for the springtime match

at Wembley against Brazil, preferring him to Finney. Brazil's full backs for this match were Djalma Santos and Nilton Santos. Several of their team had been in the World Cup quarter-final two years before and were now part of a side being reshaped for the World Cup two years later in Sweden, where they would win world-wide admiration with their exhilarating victory. Nilton Santos, who now faced Matthews, was the captain, quick and aggressive. Describing him in his book *One Hundred Caps*, Billy Wright wrote:

"Nilton Santos was very different in appearance from Djalma. Yet his approach to the game was every bit as aggressive, and I have seen him complete a movement by shooting at goal on more than one occasion. When I first saw him I was deceived by his air of casualness. I thought a really fast winger would be able to lose him. Yet, in later years, I always noted that no matter how fast the winger, Nilton was always alongside him waiting for the right moment to tackle. Stanley Matthews, marked by Nilton, had a hand in all four of the goals scored by England against Brazil at Wembley in 1956 — but this is no yardstick of Nilton's ability. Stanley is a law unto himself."

Had it not been for the emergence of Pelé, only seventeen when he devastated Sweden in the 1958 final, Didi, Brazil's black midfield player, would probably be regarded as the finest of all players in Brazil's history. Didi was in the team at Wembley, and a revelation at that time for English eyes. Today he recalls:

"It was one of the first occasions that I'd played outside Brazil. Wembley made a great impression on us. We had sincerely hoped for a large crowd, but never thought it would be a full house. This was a trip to Europe in preparation for the next World Cup, and some of us were very nervous. A few days earlier, we'd lost 3-0 to Italy, and didn't want to be defeated again by England. It was the last game of this tour, and at the very least we wanted to go home having given a good performance. I warned my colleagues beforehand about Tommy Taylor and about Matthews. I told Nilton, a colleague of mine with the Botafogo club in Rio, to pay particular attention to Matthews. I remember that England scored twice before the game had hardly begun, but we managed to equalize, Paulinho and I scoring soon after half-time. But England got another two with a splendid performance and deserved their victory."

"Matthews was astonishing. I never thought that a player of 41 years of age would be able to do what he did on the football pitch. I'd told Nilton, who was one of the best players in Brazil and to this day is considered to be the best marker in the history of Brazilian football, that he should be especially careful and not be influenced by Matthews' appearance or age. Yet I only know that on that afternoon Nilton gave one of his weakest performances. Not because he played badly. On the contrary. The play of Stanley Matthews, who gave a complete exhibition of his genius, must take the glory for this. He did not score any goals, but he was the creator of almost all of them. He was, for me, an extraordinary player. I would say he was in the same class as Garrincha or Julinho. He was the most like a Brazilian or Argentinian player, something rare in England, and he has not been equalled to this day."

Extracted from *Stanley Matthews: The Authorized Biography* — David Miller (Published by Pavilion Books, £12.95)

TRIUMPH OF OLD WORLD OVER THE NEW

ENGLAND WORTHY FOOTBALL WINNERS

From Our Association Football Correspondent
England 4, Brazil 2

Marshals and scarlet Caesars have won their victories on land, but few could have equalled in colour and dramatic contexts this triumph of the Apollonian English game over the Dionysian dance of Brazil. Wembley yesterday saw as varied and as exciting a show as has ever touched its velvet surface since the early days of the Rodeo. Here was everything: football, a touch of the three-ring circus, a dash of the bull-ring, and at the end of it all a huge and undisputed triumph for the original masters of the Old World against the champions of the New. A 100,000 crowd loved it from the first moment, though before the close there were many painful moments to live through.

A thousand and one things vibrate in memory, but where to start? Best perhaps is to tell the sequence of events simply. Winning the toss and taking a broad south-westerly wind on their backs, England crashed through to a two-goal lead by Taylor and Grainger within the opening five minutes. Here was something to set all England dancing. That lead they still held preciously and with much authority at half-time, though for spells the Brazilian virtuosity had seemed to need only the inspiration of a goal to set their intricate fires alight.

LONG WAY TO GO

Within 10 minutes of the second half the picture had changed utterly. Paulinho and Didi, with strange goals, rocked the English men to their heels. Now it was 2-2, with the balance of inspiration changed and a long, long way to go. But in the end it was the particular artistry of Stanley Matthews, backed by the iron spirit and direct skill of his colleagues, who saw England home.

Supplementing his already rich contribution to England's opening goals, it was now two centres of his from the right, each pitched to the far posts with pin-point accuracy, that were headed home by Taylor and Grainger so that finally the grand young man of English football, aged 41 years, left the scene of most of his greatest triumphs with yet another crown about his head. Yet during that dramatic last half-hour, he and a hundred thousand people had stood by to watch England miss two penalties into the bargain and all but throw the match away.

GREAT RIGHT BACK

Make no mistake, these Brazilians are maestros individually. There surely is no greater right back in the world to-day than Djalma Santos, his control and use of the ball being equal to anything any forward could wish to attain. Didi, at inside left, is a supreme artist, quick as a black panther, a man who, for a spell of 20 minutes before half-time, threatened to take the match and wrap it round his little finger. There was, too, the lightning support in attack of Dequinha, from left-half.

These were the ringmasters who took the eye. But it was in defence in depth, in teamwork, and in the creation of the final and destructive opening which stamps great sides that Brazil failed. Of the two goals they scored one was a freak bearing some dark magic about it. The other came as a mistake by the junior Matthews who seemed unwatched under the English crossbar, but a mistake it was.

For the rest, it was all lovely patterned approach, a colourful picture in design and content, but no finishing touch to the picture behind Wright and his backs within the English penalty area. These ebony Brazilians, wearing shirts of daffodil colour and the briefest of pale blue shorts, might have belonged to a wood in springtime. Their gyrations, too, told of dance steps in wild woods with a special relish for agility and flourish. But this day it all faded against the solid oak of England. The English half-back line, in particular, won the highest laurels. Wright, Clayton, recovering wonderfully from Didi's inspired spell, and the giant Edwards, were magnificent. They, together with Hall and Byrne behind them, made all the Brazilian frills count for nothing in the end, and to them must go the major praise for the victory.

But the forward line, too, reacted in just the right way, with a clever mixture of the long pass and a change of the attacking point.

Here Taylor, at centre-forward, gave full effect to the tactical plan by his authority over Pavao, both in the air and with his speed over the ground. Haynes, the linchpin of attack, was quick to spot this chink in the South American armour, and he cleverly varied his tactics accordingly to keep the Brazilians moving the wrong way, ever fearful of the past to Stanley Matthews.

SUDDEN SPASMS

Matthews, in point, came into the pattern only in sudden spasms, but when he did danger trembled as he moved either inside or outside N. Santos. In the final analysis indeed, quite apart from the vast roar of expectation he drew from the company when on the move, he had a foot in each goal, and that was something to savour.

England began with a surge as in the days of Mortensen at centre-forward. Within seconds Taylor caught the tide that carried him through the battle. He broke clean through finely, but shot too high and too soon with the roar of goal already on the wind. But within two minutes he had set it right. A fine move put England ahead. Now Edwards, a lovely square pass to Haynes, a forward touch, and Taylor bit the roof of Gilmar's net a thundering smack.

Three minutes later England were two up. Matthews, falling into defence, began it near his own right corner flag. A saucy flick through Canhoto's legs found Hall; Hall's long through pass saw Taylor again sweep past Pavao, and there was Grainger up to shoot home from Haynes' final touch. So it remained at half-time, though Taylor, with a great shot had hit a post. England two up, but Brazil not yet out of it by a long chalk.

Now the game began to fall, and with the sudden change the battle changed too. A new hazard was thrown in, and for the next half-hour the packed terraces lived either on the crests or in the trough of waves of excitement. With eight minutes gone, and now the wind behind Brazil, N. Santos joined swift attack down the left. Over came a centre, and Paulinho on the right left fly almost on the by-line. The angle was the acutest possible, but the impossible happened. His shot struck Byrne, ricocheted back in an awful parabola across a helpless defence, and spun over the England goal line.

LEVEL

This gave Brazil a straw to clutch. Within another two minutes they were level as Didi, taking Wright's half clearance, surprised Matthews (R.) from 20 yards as the goalkeeper merely turned a rising shot inside his own goalposts.

Now followed the rodeo, the circus, and all the rest. All we needed was an earthquake. Brazil, moving the ball about in close circles, seemed to have saved their day. But now their volatile temperament failed. With half an hour left Haynes' cross free kick from the edge of the penalty area was handled by an excitable defender. Penalty. But could the French referee make his point? It might have been carnival time in some South American city as he was jostled by the Brazilians. One annexed the ball and made off with it like some third form schoolboy who had decided to go home with the only plaything and sport he owned. In due course Atyeo, the least distinguished of England's forwards, had his penalty kick saved, and no wonder. But why Atyeo as the intended executioner, one wondered.

But now Matthews came to the rescue, and a perfect centre by him from Haynes' inside pass was headed back by Atyeo for Taylor to nod England into the lead once more at 3-2. Now came another penalty for hands, stopping Taylor and Atyeo going through in a duel. This time Byrne failed to beat Gilmar on his left side. The agony of it.

Yet once more Matthews helped to settle something we should all have been spared. Centre followed, and the alert Grainger stamped his first game for England with another goal, a swift header for Gilmar. At last amid gusts of excitement and a wrinkle or two on its damp ground. Teams:—

ENGLAND—Matthews (R.) (Coventry City); Hall (Birmingham City); Byrne (Manchester United); Clayton (Blackburn Rovers); Wright (Wolverhampton Wanderers) (captain); Edwards (Manchester United); Matthews (S.) (Blackpool); Atyeo (Bristol City); Taylor (Manchester United); Haynes (Fulham); Grainger. (Sheffield United).

BRAZIL—Gilmar; D. Santos, N. Santos (captain); Zozimo, Pavao, Dequinha; Paulinho, Alvaro, Gino, Didi, Canhoto. REFEREE—M. Guigue (France).

This is how Geoffrey Green reported the Brazil match in *The Times* on May 10 1956

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NEXT GENERATION CHEMISTRY

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND'S PLAYERS HAVE SOME TOUGH PILKINGTON CUP GAMES TO GET THROUGH BEFORE PREPARING FOR INTERNATIONAL DUTY IN PARIS

Wasps faced with a difficult decision on Probyn's fitness

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

A collection of battered and bruised limbs — otherwise known as England's senior and B XV's — will gather in Richmond this evening to prepare tomorrow morning for next weekend's games against the French. Most of them will come direct from the pleasure or pain of today's third-round Pilkington Cup ties, which will see at least two giants of the competition fall by the wayside.

England's XV for the Parc des Princes will be confirmed tomorrow at Twickenham, though the French team will not be known until the evening, by which time Serge Blanco should have confirmed his fitness with Biarritz and the result of last night's Racing Club de France meeting will be known.

That meeting of club officials could abridge the one-

month suspension given Franck Mesnel for an unauthorised visit to Uruguay to play sevens, in which case Jacques Fouroux may be tempted to restore him to international rugby.

First there is today's cup business. Bath, the holders, though somewhat put out when the return flight from their Lanzarote training camp was delayed six hours by Thursday's gale, are well prepared to meet Harlequins, the club who interrupted their six-year grip on the competition by winning in 1988.

They did not reach home until 7am yesterday though David Egerton, their No. 8, preceded them and managed a good night's sleep. Egerton is aware of the debate over the England back row and intends to ensure that, if anyone is

dropped from the national side, it is not he.

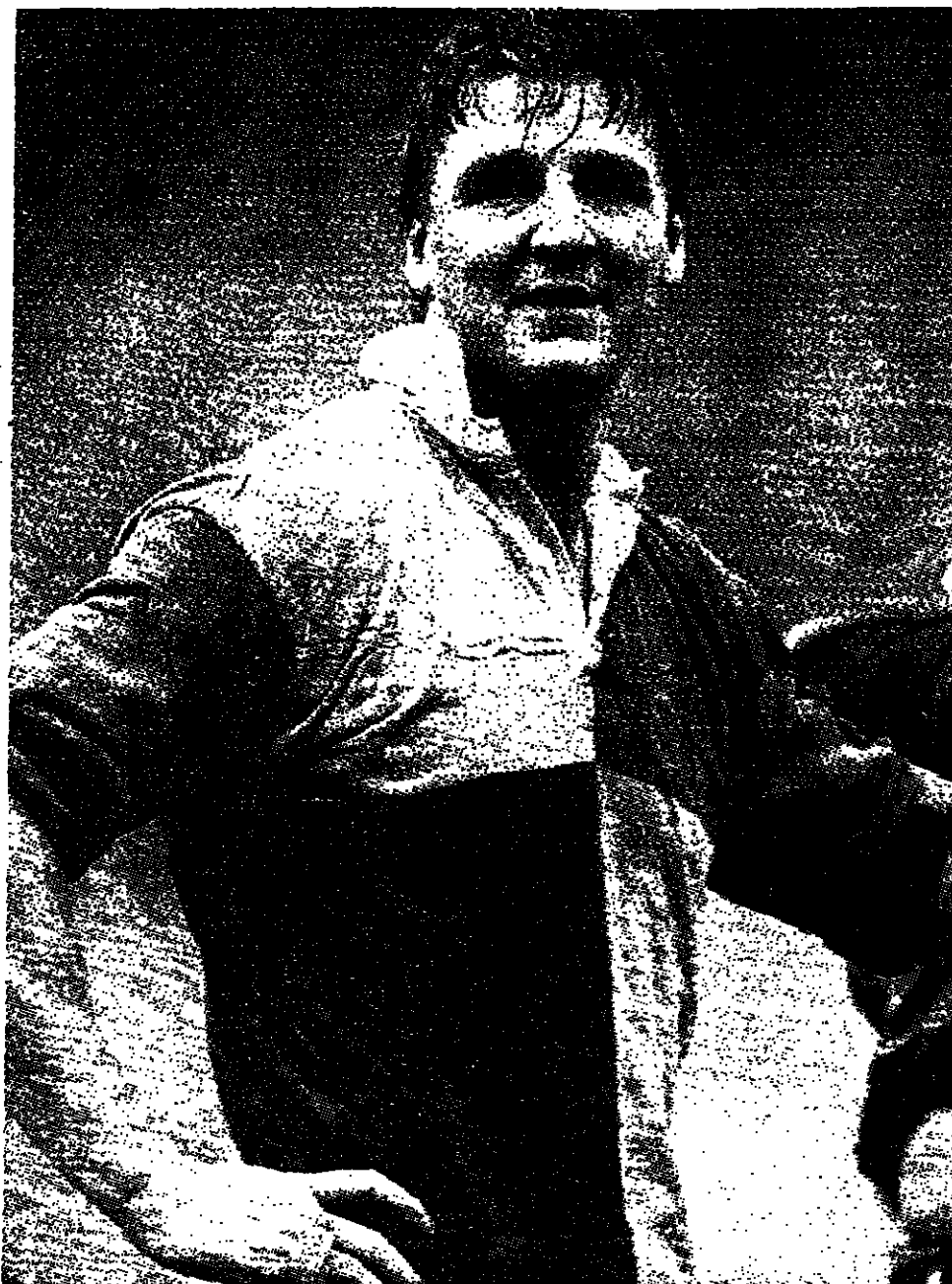
"The side that wins will be the one that plays best as a team, and that is as much about mental toughness as anything else," Egerton said. "It is not just self-belief but the will to win, and that is where Bath have scored in the past." Mickey Skinner's place in the England back row may be most at risk but the Harlequins flanker has the substantial assistance of Winterbottom and Langhorn today.

The other major cup clash is at Sudbury where Gloucester, twice cup winners with one shared, hope to reverse the result (29-4) of their league match with Wasps this season. Wasps have yet to win the competitions their talent suggests they should and on this occasion Gloucester have Teague and Hamafor back to lift them; they were happy to hear yesterday that Derrick Morgan, their wing, has recovered from a damaged shoulder.

Though he has been included in the Wasps XV, Jeff Probyn, the England prop, will have a fitness test before the game after having the stitches removed from the ear damaged against Ireland a week ago. "The wound is healing well," he said.

The other tie featuring two first division clubs is at Roehampton, where Rosslyn Park have Simon Dear back at lock for the visit of Nottingham. Though they stuttered at the start of the season, Nottingham have discovered greater consistency of late and will be all the better for the inspirational presence of Brian Moore, the England hooker, to help them towards Monday's fourth-round draw.

Leicester, last year's beaten finalists, are at London Welsh where Barry Evans, capped twice by England in 1988, will be looking for the two tries which will break the club's record. Between 1967 and 1979 Bob Barker, also a wing, ran in 158; Evans stands on 157 in his ninth season. Even if the record remains today, it must surely fall very soon.



Looking for support Skinner has substantial help in his bid to keep England place

League battle intensifies

By Alan Lorimer

Even though the continuity has been lost in the second half of the season, the McEwan's national league in Scotland is generating an unprecedented amount of interest in its closing stages. The reason, apart from the removal of the Hawick/Kelso monopoly, is the closeness of the competition with four rounds left.

Melrose, the leaders, Heriot's FP, Jed-Forest and Stirling County are separated by only two points and still in the picture are Edinburgh Academicals, only one point behind the Bridgehead team. Equally enthralling is the relegation battle, where the issue is which club will join West of Scotland.

Melrose will need little reminding that Stirling County have shown scant respect for Border regulations, having put both Hawick and Kelso to the sword. In addition, Heriot's and

Boroughmuir fell prey to their energetic style of play but against Melrose, the Stirling side could face a similar style of play. Melrose, who have made a late change at flanker, where Andrew Kerr comes in for the injured Andrew Redpath, will also be aware that they lost their last league match at the Greenyards, where Ayr achieved a 9-8 victory.

Ayr, who are second from bottom, face Heriot's FP at Millbrae, where their task has been made all the more difficult by the inclusion in the visitors' side of Adam Buchanan-Smith, the Scotland flanker, who has joined them from London Scottish after his teaching appointment at George Watson's College in Edinburgh.

Jed-Forest, although beaten by Heriot's two weeks ago, are still Calia to take them out of immediate relegation danger.

should be too strong for Selkirk at Riverside.

Armstrong, though declared fit, will obviously want to play a league game before next Saturday's international match in Dublin, as will Iwan Tukalo, who has played only three matches since returning from injury.

The other top match is at Meggatland, where Boroughmuir field Cristian Raducanu, the Romania lock, against Glasgow High/Kelvinside.

Elsewhere, the Hawick v Kelso match has lost some of its appeal because of the present decline of the two clubs. At Burnbrae, West of Scotland face a seemingly hopeless task against Edinburgh Academicals while, at Inverthick, Stewart's Melville will require a win over Gala to take them out of immediate relegation danger.

Welsh directive to clean up game's sullied reputation

By David Hands

Though it may not have reached all destinations in time for today's fifth-round Schweppes Welsh Cup matches, a directive was issued yesterday by the Welsh Rugby Union confirming the need to clean up the image of the game which has been so muddied by foul play this season.

Guidance goes out to Welsh referees, not entirely as a result of the sending-off of Kevin Moseley during last Saturday's international against France, that three specific offences warrant immediate dismissal: illegal use of the boot, head-butting and all forms of dangerous tackling.

The WRU and representatives of the Welsh Rugby Union Referees' Society met on Thursday to discuss the use of the sin-bin and the role of the touch judge and foul play. It was a meeting arranged earlier this month and clearly those present felt that the sin-bin may have been used in cases where players should have been sent off.

"Difficulties have arisen in this area because of the problem of defining what sin-bin offences are," Dennis Lloyd, the chairman of the WRU laws sub-committee, said yesterday. "In future referees are directed to use the sin-bin only to defuse a situation."

Dennis Evans, the WRU secretary, has commented the directive with a letter to all affiliated bodies, calling for "individual and collective responsibility for discipline by all those involved at all times and at all levels of rugby football in Wales."

"The WRU is most anxious that member clubs, and members of those clubs, are aware of its determination to insist on the highest possible standards of behaviour. Without wishing to over-react to recent events, there is a definite indication that foul play is on the increase... Wales' rugby reputation is at stake, being judged as a nation by our actions of complying with the laws within the spirit of the game."

Today's cup matches may yet enhance the national reputation, particularly if the plum game — Cardiff versus Llanelli — lives up to everything both clubs stand for. Llanelli play two flankers who must both be under consideration for the national side, Iwan Jones and Mark Perago, essential open-side players who will operate left and right.

The education of their young front-row men, Ricky Evans and Andy Jones, against a Cardiff pack lacking the injured Watkins, Griffiths and Crothers, the captain, Mark King, so successful when the clubs meet earlier this season, leaves the team with Paul John preferred at scrum half.

Neath, the cup holders, play Moseley in a game which will make the treasurer of the junior club a happy man and at least one junior side will feature in tomorrow's quarter-final draw, since Neath's Wales Cup holders, play Llanharan, the champions of the East District.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Bristol v Liverpool St H
Bristol retain the XV which beat Seagles last week, which means Telford, the French wing, has his first taste of the cup. Liverpool replace the injured Cooper at lock with Sainsbury, but have Luckton (flanker) back and pair Williams and Davies at centre.

Fylde v Gosforth
Fylde remain without Dixon (hooker) and McKillo (lock), but Little is in the front row and the dangerous Harvanon on the wing. Gosforth return from injury to lead Gosforth from the wing and Bainbridge is back at No. 8.

Headingley v N Walsham
Headingley's pack is strengthened by Huntman's return as loose-head prop and captain. Shortland is at lock and Pepper is preferred on the flank against North Walsham, who are led by Gardner.

L Welsh v Leicester
David Williams plays against his former club on the Welsh wing, while Lee Evans moves to stand-off to cover for the ineligible Gareth Hughes. Rory Underwood is fit for Leicester.

Moseley v Berry Hill
Cox, the veteran hooker, comes in for the injured Harbord and Moseley retain Taylor at lock. Berry Hill return missing Moore at stand-off and Nick Harris at back and prop and Nick Harris at lock for the injured Evans.

Plymouth A v Orrell
Hocking makes his 400th senior appearance for Plymouth A, at home-head prop and Lym, comes into the centre for Meakin. Orrell, who travelled yesterday, hope to be unchanged.

Sale v Blackheath
Sale rely on their back division, Joe (stand-off) and Hamer (centre) both returning from injury, moving to the wing. Blackheath lost to Sale in the league last season, though they have yet to meet in the cup.

Wakefield v Rugby
Heron (prop) and Hawesley (No. 8) return from Wakefield, so Sowerby switches to the flank. Rugby retain Chris House, brother of their centre, Stuart, who is on his first visit to College Grove.

Law Report January 27 1990 House of Lords

Non-actionable counterclaim admitted through arbitration proceedings

Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd v Kate Shipping Co Ltd

Before Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Goff of Chieveley [Speeches January 25]

Where English arbitration proceedings had been commenced against a party who then commenced an action in the English court for a declaration that there was no contract between the parties, the other party was entitled to make a counterclaim in the action, notwithstanding that the subject matter of the counterclaim could not be claimed by a separate action commenced in the English court.

The House of Lords by a majority (Lord Justice Goff dissenting) so held in allowing an appeal by Kate Shipping Ltd, a Maltese company ("the sellers"), from a decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times April 15, 1988; [1988] 1 WLR 167) who by a majority (Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Staughton dissenting) had allowed an appeal by Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd, an Indian company ("the buyers"), from a decision of the arbitrator, Lord Justice Stoughton, who had refused the buyers' application to strike out the counterclaim.

Mr Anthony Colman, QC and Mr Simon Crookenden for the sellers; Mr Stewart Boyd, QC and Mr Giles Caidin for the buyers.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR, agreeing with the reasoning and conclusion of Lord Brandon and with the observations of Lord Bridge, emphasized, first, that he believed it was highly desirable that the question whether or not there was a concluded contract, and, if there was, whether or not there was an arbitration clause included in it, should be decided before costs were incurred in the arbitration. Nothing in the present decision put any doubt upon that.

Second, his Lordship emphasized that staying the counterclaim should not be taken to restrict in any way the manner in which the court might deal with it, once those questions had been determined.

In particular, he did not think the court would necessarily be restricted at that stage in the way suggested by Lord Goff. In the light of the full circumstances as they then emerged, it would remain open to the court then to strike out the counterclaim.

LORD BRIDGE, agreeing with Lord Brandon, said that the two primary issues were whether the parties concluded any binding contract at all and, if so, whether the contract incorporated an arbitration agreement. The buyers' originating summons sought only a declaration that there was no arbitration

agreement. The sellers, while resisting that declaration, sought by a counterclaim a declaration that there was in any event a binding contract.

Under the arbitration agreement, the arbitrator was to decide the question whether or not there was a concluded contract. The arbitrator's decision was to be final and binding on the parties. The arbitrator's decision was to be final and binding on the parties.

A party against whom English arbitration proceedings had been commenced and who invoked the jurisdiction of the English court by seeking a declaration that he was not a party to the alleged arbitration agreement could not claim any special immunity from liability to a counterclaim.

If the subject matter of the counterclaim was wholly unrelated to the subject matter of the claim, that might well be a ground for striking out the counterclaim under Order 28, rule 7(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

But where, as here, the subject matter of the claim and counterclaim were inseparably inter-connected, the proposition that they ought to be disposed of in separate proceedings flew in the teeth of the common sense and common justice of the case.

The buyers were, however, entitled to insist that, if contrary to their primary contention, the arbitrator's decision was to be final and binding on the parties, the remaining issues should be disposed of by arbitration and the stay proposed by Lord Brandon would safeguard their position in that respect.

If the court which tried the primary issues concluded that there was no contract, that would be an end of the case. If it concluded that there was a binding contract but no arbitration agreement that any further problem would arise as to how the remaining issues should be disposed of.

But it would be open to the buyers at that stage to show, if they could, that the remaining issues could more conveniently be disposed of in another forum. For those reasons and those more fully deployed in the speech of Lord Brandon which he agreed, his Lordship would allow the appeal in the terms of the order which Lord Brandon proposed.

LORD BRANDON said that the sellers were formerly the owners of the motor vessel Gladys. Their London solicitors were Zaiwalla & Co. The buyers' London solicitors were Stocken & Lambert.

In 1982 negotiations took place in Calcutta between the sellers through agents and the buyers through agents for the sale of the Gladys by the sellers to the buyers for scrap. There was a dispute between the parties as to whether those negotiations resulted in a concluded contract, and, if they did,

as to whether such contract had incorporated into it by reference a clause providing that English law should apply to the contract and that all disputes arising under or in connection with the contract should be referred to arbitration in the United Kingdom ("the disputed clause").

The buyers having denied the existence of a concluded contract, the sellers on September 9, 1982 purported to treat such denial as a repudiation and claimed to be entitled to damages for it.

On the same day they appointed Mr Bruce Harris, a distinguished London arbitrator, as their arbitrator in the dispute.

On October 25, 1982 the buyers appointed Mr Cedric Barclay, another distinguished London arbitrator who has since died, as their arbitrator. That appointment was expressly made subject to the decision of the arbitrator as to whether or not the buyers' right to contend that there was no contract, or that, if there was, it did not incorporate any arbitration agreement.

On November 13, 1984 the sellers served points of claim in the arbitration in which they claimed over \$160,000 as damages for wrongful repudiation and interest.

On February 15, 1985 the buyers through Stocken issued an originating summons against the sellers in the Commercial Court in London, claiming "a declaration that... the arbitrator's decision... have no jurisdiction to bind the parties... by reason that there was no arbitration agreement made between the parties".

The originating summons was supported by an affidavit of Mr Ashana, a partner in Stocken, which made clear the alternative claims sought to be made by the buyers: first, that there was no contract; and, second, if there was, it did not incorporate an arbitration agreement.

While they put forward those two alternative claims, the buyers wished, if both cases were to be decided against them, to have the sellers' claim against them determined in the arbitration which had already been begun, and not by any court.

The sellers did not file any evidence in answer to Mr Ashana's affidavit. Instead, they purported to serve points of counterclaim in the proceedings begun by the originating summons and repeated in the points of counterclaim substantially the allegations which they had made in their points of claim in the arbitration.

In the prayer of the pleading the sellers counterclaimed (1) a declaration that the buyers entered into a contract with the sellers to buy the Gladys at a price of US\$83 per ton (2) damages for repudiation of the contract and (3) interest.

At the same time as the points of counterclaim were served Zaiwalla told Stocken that they had informed the arbitrators that the arbitration should be left in abeyance pending the

decision of the action in the Commercial Court.

The buyers issued a summons by which they applied for an order (1) that the sellers should be required to discontinue their points of counterclaim, or (2) that the points of counterclaim should be struck out.

It was clear that the application to strike out was not intended to apply to that part of the points of counterclaim relating to a declaration that there had been a concluded contract, but rather to the other parts in which the sellers' substantive claim for damages for breach of contract was put forward.

His Lordship would therefore use the expression "counterclaim" as meaning only those latter parts.

It was common ground that the sellers' service of their points of counterclaim was irregular in that they failed to comply with the requirements of Order 28, rule 7(2). No point, however, was taken in respect of that irregularity.

On the hearing of the buyers' summons to strike out the sellers' points of counterclaim, the judge made an order to the following effect:

(1) The action to continue as if begun by writ; (2) Mr Ashana's affidavit to stand as evidence of the facts alleged therein; (3) the sellers' points of counterclaim to stand and the buyers to serve to them within 28 days of service of the sellers' points of defence; and (4) the buyers' summons to be dismissed with costs.

The Court of Appeal by a majority (Lord Justice Staughton dissenting) allowed the buyers' appeal and ordered the points of counterclaim to be struck out.

The present appeal raised, potentially at least, three questions for determination. 1. The first was whether the Court of Appeal was entitled to interfere with judge's discretionary decision and substitute its own. There were two grounds entitling the Court of Appeal to interfere.

First, the judge regarded the present case as largely governed by *Republic of Liberia v Gulf Oil Corp Ltd* ([1985] 1 Lloyd's Rep 539). In taking that view, the judge erred in law. Second, the judge expressed the view that there was no merit in any of the matters put forward on behalf of the buyers. He was plainly wrong.

One of the matters put forward was that, if the court was to decide that there was a concluded contract and that it contained the disputed clause, it would be unjust to the buyers if an order were made which deprived them of the opportunity to obtain a mandatory stay of the counterclaim under section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1975.

That was a matter which clearly had merit, and the judge erred in principle in not recognizing it and dealing with it as such. 2. The second question was

whether the House of Lords in turn was entitled to interfere with the Court of Appeal's discretionary decision and substitute its own. The majority in the Court of Appeal, in exercising their own discretion, erred in principle in three ways.

First, they erred in taking the view that a counterclaim made under Order 28, rule 7(1) ought not to be allowed to proceed in a case where, if the defendants had brought a separate action instead of making a counterclaim, they would not have been able to obtain leave to serve process out of the jurisdiction under Order 11.

The terms of Order 28, rule 7(1) and (3) were inconsistent with that view.

Second, the majority in the Court of Appeal erred in treating an action for the kind of declaration sought by the buyers in the present case as being to assert the words of Lord Justice Oliver in the *Liberia* case, some special sacrosanct category of proceeding in which a counterclaim was not to be permitted under the ordinary principles applicable under Order 28, rule 7.

Third, they erred in regarding the conduct of the sellers in making their counterclaim as vexatious and an abuse of the process of the court. 3. The third question in the appeal was: what decision should be substituted? Each of the parties had a legitimate interest which any order made should protect.

The buyers' interest was that, in the event of the court deciding, on the trial of the originating summons, that there was a contract and that it incorporated the disputed clause, they should be able to apply for a mandatory stay of the counterclaim under section 1 of the 1975 Act.

The sellers' interest was that, in the event of the court deciding that there was a contract but it did not incorporate the disputed clause, they should be able to pursue their counterclaim in the buyers' action.

The only way in which both interests could be protected was by an order that all further proceedings on the sellers' counterclaim, save in so far as it related to their claim for a declaration, should be stayed pending the decision of the court on the originating summons.

Then, if the court decided that there was a contract and it incorporated the disputed clause, the stay could be maintained and the sellers' substantive claim could be dealt with in the pending proceedings. Alternatively, if the court decided that there was a contract but it did not incorporate the disputed clause, the sellers would be in a position to apply for the stay to be lifted so as to enable them to pursue their counterclaim.

Under Order 28, rule 7(3) an order for the stay of a counterclaim could only be made if it appeared to the court that its

subject matter ought to be disposed of by a separate action. It did not appear to his Lordship that the counterclaim in the present case ought to be disposed of by a separate action, so that a stay of the counterclaim could not be ordered under rule 7(3).

The court, however, had an inherent jurisdiction to order a stay when justice so required and that jurisdiction should be exercised in the present case.

It would not be right to express an opinion on the question of *forum conveniens* at the present stage. The question might never arise for decision and, if and when it did, it would have to be decided by reference to the situation as it existed at that time.

LORD OLIVER agreed. **LORD GOFF**, dissenting, said that the central question was whether the counterclaim should be struck out under rule 7(3), on the ground that it ought to be disposed of by a separate action. In his Lordship's opinion, the counterclaim should be struck out on that ground.

There was held to be a valid arbitration agreement, it did not matter, because in that event the buyers, who in those circumstances wished the matter to go to arbitration, would be entitled to apply for a mandatory stay of the counterclaim.

Again, if on the buyers' summons there was held to be no valid arbitration agreement because there was no binding contract between the parties, But it was not to be forgotten

that an application for a stay on the ground of *forum non conveniens* would not succeed simply because this country was not the appropriate forum. It had to be shown that there was some other jurisdiction which was clearly more appropriate.

Sometimes there was a jurisdiction which was particularly appropriate. If so, the application for a stay would fail, and the proceedings would be allowed to proceed here, where, *ex hypothesi*, jurisdiction had properly been founded: see *Europcar Asia Bank AG v Punjab and Sind Bank* ([1982] 2 Lloyd's Rep 356).

It was not possible to proceed on the basis that the sellers had a legitimate interest which required to be protected by a stay of proceedings. So to hold begged the question which, for it presupposed that the court would not strike out the counterclaim.

It proceeded on the basis that, because the sellers had succeeded in founding jurisdiction under Order 28, rule 7(1), they had without more acquired a legitimate interest which precluded the court from exercising its power to strike out the counterclaim under rule 7(3). With all respect, his Lordship did not agree.

The question was whether the court should exercise that power. For the reasons given by his Lordship it should do so, and his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Zaiwalla & Co; Stocken & Lambert.

Prosecutor must reveal identity of complainant

Davenport District Council v Ollins

A prosecuting authority, including local government authorities, should reveal the identity of a complainant to a defendant at an early stage and well before advance disclosure.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held on January 18 in dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the prosecutor, Davenport District Council, against the dismissal by Davenport Justices on April 7, 1989 of an information on the ground that there had been an

abuse of process of the court caused by an unreasonable delay in bringing the case.

The defendant had not received advance disclosure naming the actual complainant until 10 months after the alleged incident.

The information alleged that the defendant had, on or about July 5, 1988, sold a pork pie unit for human consumption contrary to section 8(1) of the Food Act 1984.

MR JUSTICE NOLAN said that if it was the general practice

for a local authority or other prosecuting authority to withhold the name of a complainant until the stage of advance disclosure, that practice should cease.

As a general rule an accused person was entitled to know who accused him as an anonymous complainant was very often difficult to refute. There might be cases where it was right for confidence to be preserved but where a decision to prosecute was taken, that should be the exception rather than the rule.

LORD JUSTICE MCGOWAN said that it should be clear that apart from that direction no criticism could be advanced against the judge's case which was by no means easy.

However, on the plain wording of section 28, conspiracy was not one of the offences referred to and in consequence no question of there being a burden upon the defendant arose.

Burden of proof direction wrong

Regina v McGowan

Section 28 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977, under which the normal burden of proof was reversed in respect of offences under the provisions of that Act, did not apply to offences of conspiracy.

Accordingly, a judge erred in directing a jury considering an offence of conspiracy unlawfully to produce a controlled drug, that there was a burden upon the defendant to prove that he neither believed nor suspected

nor had reason to suspect that the substance or produce in question was a controlled drug.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McGowan, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Potter) so held on January 23 when allowing an appeal by Paul David Roger McGowan against his conviction on September 23, 1988 in Reading Crown Court (Judge Lait and a jury) of conspiracy unlawfully to produce a controlled drug, namely amphetamine sulphate.

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TRAVEL

The no snow activity show

Even when the white powder is in short supply, skiers can still find exciting sports in the mountains, Doug Sager says

When Johannes Badruttsch persuaded four English gentlemen to pass the winter season at his Kalm Hotel in 1864, skiing had yet to reach St Moritz or even Switzerland. With probably the best snow in the Alps this week, St Moritz was playing host to stunt skiers thrashing out the latest James Bond extravaganzas.

But elsewhere across the Alps, holidaymakers might just as well have been translated back to Badruttsch's time, pondering the essentials of winter life in the mountains without skiing.

With yesterday's sudden swirl of snow, skiers are once again waxing their boards and looking out of their chalet windows at white instead of brown. But in fact, this snow storm was more wind and fury than heavy dump. Another week of sunny skies, as forecast, could put conditions right back where they have been for the past two months. So be prepared to try some low-snow alternatives. Even some skiers such as former British downhiller Bernard Bartelski can enjoy themselves in minimal snow conditions. Just back from six days in Kirzhbühl, Bartelski was upbeat.

"We had a great holiday, ate and drank well, went for walks, did some shopping, put on a little weight, just didn't go up the mountain much," Bartelski rates skiing as a definite second to "just being in the mountains".

This winter echoes with that Wordsworthian sentiment. In vulgar terms, punters have been spending a lot of time sitting on terraces sipping up glühwein and staring at the distant peaks. A Verbier winter reports unprecedented snow on his 80p per litre "chalet girl special" red.

But even a Sloane might be uplifted by the mountain graces, relentless weeks of cloudless azure, windless skies through which the sun beats down, scorched the pines and sizzling the still cold air.

St Moritz and the Engadine valley are inspiring, the quiet cozy streets of old Andermatt are charming, but I love the monstrous seracs of Sass Foc, free-standing ice blocks almost as big as the corridors in the classic Hôtel du Glacier.

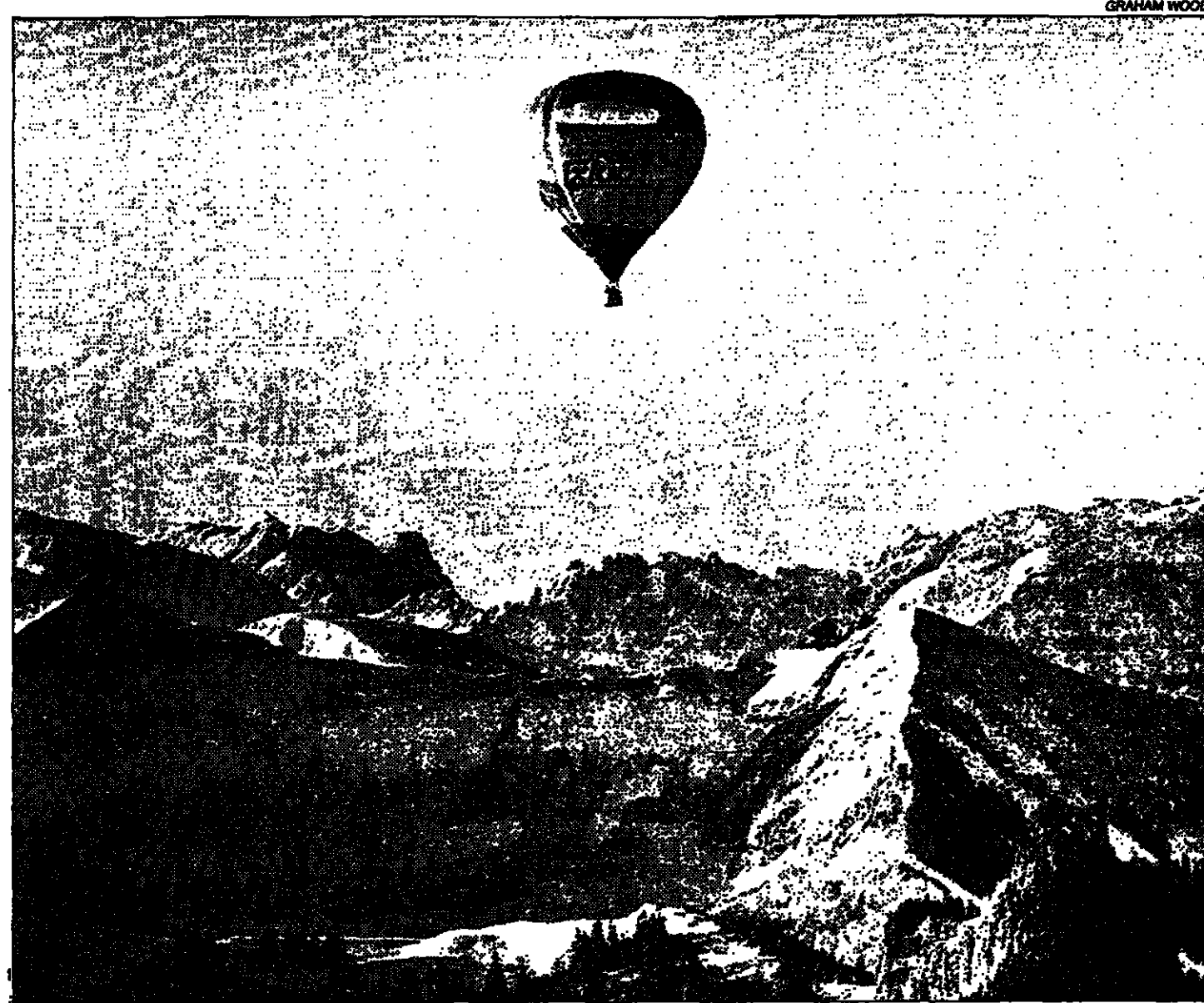
Oddly, tourist directors, busy cooking the books on their snow reports, seldom stop at the majesty of the mountains as a sufficient excuse for a holiday. A panoply of non-skiing attractions are trotted out to dress up the resort, devoid of its snowy mantle. Guide books attempt to assess resorts according to their amenability to non-skiers; but skiers hereof of snow do not look for the same kind of alternatives (swimming-pools, skating), genial as these options are, as do non-skiers. No one has yet got round to cataloguing resorts in terms of the high-risk, high-reward activities which attract skiers in the first place.

These activities are: parapente, ice and rock climbing, mountain biking and alternative forms of skiing like randonnee and telemark. They are most in evidence at resorts on the leading edge of skiing: St Anton, Val d'Isère, Chamonix and Verbier; but also burgeoning at resorts which offer more accessible skiing: Zermatt, Méribel, Courchevel, Cortina and Kitzbühel.

Having linked these alternatives to conventional skiing with perhaps the younger and fitter end of the market, I should emphasize that you don't have to be an extreme skier like Jean Marc Boivin (who flew off Everest) to take up parapente.

If you are really into passive air sports, try hang gliding or parapente as a passenger. Better yet, book a sightseeing flight over the Alps or watch the international balloon show now on at Chateau d'Oex near Gstaad.

Parapente is the fastest growing sport in Europe (as described on these travel pages last week). A cross between a hang glider and a



Balloon's eye view: drifting through the clear Alpine air above St Gilgen in Austria, would-be skiers can still enjoy the thrill of the mountains

parachute, the parapente is easily folded into a rucksack and quickly unfurled for flights of thousands of vertical metres. Schools, including the Centre Parapente in Verbier, will have you soaring seriously in a week.

Chamonix was probably the only place last week where you could scale seracs and explore ice caves at 3,000-plus metres in the morning, and squirm up sun-warmed rock in the afternoon. The Compagnie des Guides in Chamonix is offering lessons in both options.

Like parapente, mountain biking exists in Britain too. But the Alpine versions of both these sports have added dimensions. Forget the muddy, damp, uphill slog of mountain biking in

Britain. Almost every resort in the Alps is equipped to carry you hired 21-speed knobby to the top of the hill on the ski lifts.

Sunny days and cold nights for the past two months have meant ultra-pleasant riding for those inclined to a gentle pace, and safe, frozen dry roads (in most places) for the downhill demons.

Descents of 1,000 vertical metres on twisting mountain roads are possible in too many resorts to mention. The sensation of flowing with the curves and riding the terrain is sure to satisfy the otherwise frustrated downhiller.

Even when there is no skiing, there is skiing. Up above the highest lifts, from 3,000 to 4,000 metres, there is snow, even powder snow.

I skied powder last week, admittedly only a dozen turns, after slapping on the sealskins and hiking out of Verbier to Rosablanche, along the Haute Route trail from Chamonix to Zermatt. Mountain guides at any of the higher resorts will be happy to introduce you to this sweaty way to beat the crowds.

Skiers interested in the history of the sport should take a lesson in the 19th-century telemark technique to expand their whole notion of skiing. Flat glacier areas (offering the best snow at most resorts) may be boring on "fat boards". But try the kneeling telemark turn on narrow skis, where your heel is not fixed to the ski, and you'll find yourself relearning the basics, with tremen-

dous benefit to control over conventional skis.

The number of resorts with indoor swimming, tennis and sauna is too great to consider. But I would say that no amount of seaweed wrapping (Kerylos Institute, Chamonix) or shopping is going to satisfy a serious skier.

Maria Walliser, the Swiss downhiller, was taken aback by the whole idea of non-skiing alternatives. "But I am skiing! Even if there is no snow, I can always find somewhere to ski," she quavered over the phone from Santa Caterina in Italy.

Don't look for Maria in the swimming-pool: "It's too relaxing, not good for my reactions." She'll be out there, "running in the forest".

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SNOW REPORT

Resort round-up

Yesterday's tempest brought more snow than snow to most Alpine resorts. In Chamonix, Verbier and Val d'Isère, lifts were temporarily closed due to high winds, and to give security personnel time to bomb potential avalanche paths.

Hopes are high that this is the snow which will herald a return to "normal" resort operation. Further bands of snow bearing low pressure are said to be en route to the Alps from England, but Swiss forecasters also threaten intermittent clear skies and unseasonably warm temperatures. The amount of snow which has fallen so far is not sufficient to make a base for bare or icy pistes. Skiers will find their skis cutting right through to the grass and rock below.

With resorts looking white rather than brown, at least for the moment, be prepared to see the end of promotional discounts offered last week in Chamonix (15 per cent), Verbier (20 per cent) and Méribel (10 per cent). But don't expect to find all of the pistes open.

Here are the snow reports as of noon yesterday.

Doug Sager

TRAVEL NEWS

Nordic snow

Skiers are heading east this winter in greater numbers than usual. The draw is not, in this case, glaciost, but good Scandinavian snow. With self-drive ski packages to Norway starting at £86 a week, it is not surprising that the 22-hour journey from Newcastle to the slopes is an increasingly popular choice. Fred Olsen Lines sail weekly (091 257 9682).

Race comfort

A vast oak four-poster bed is not an amenity boasted by many holiday cottages. An exception is the Old Court House at Castle Combe in Wiltshire, let by Marville Period Properties (01-736 1536). It is one of several interesting houses in the area which could provide a base for racing at Cheltenham or the Bath Festival. Prices start at £360 a week.

Spirit afloat

Its owners call it a floating lodge, not a ship or a boat. Both its name, "Sepik Spirit" and its bus-a-boat appearance

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TRAVEL

Landscape without figures

Stephen Taylor escaped the crowds in the spectacular, unpeopled fjords and mountains of southern Norway

It did not take long to leave the beaten track in Telemark. Driving down a gravel path about 20 miles west of the resort of Vrådal, we neared a rustic fellow carrying a hoe: at the approach of evident strangers, his eyes first narrowed warily, then, alighting on our foreign registration plates, popped wide in astonishment.

That our B-reg Sierra, with two adults and two children, could produce so startled a reaction was most gratifying, but not, we later reflected, all that surprising. At the end of a week of motoring about Telemark — a southern province of Norway remarkable, even in this spectacular country, for its beauty — we had encountered just one other British car.

This ease of escape from crowds is one of Norway's most attractive qualities. A country half as big again as Britain, it has less than a tenth of the population. So it is not simply that the scenery is every bit as magnificent as it is reputed to be, but that it can be enjoyed in absolute solitude. On finding that one particularly idyllic picnic spot or vantage point is already occupied, one simply walks or drives on for a few minutes before coming to another.

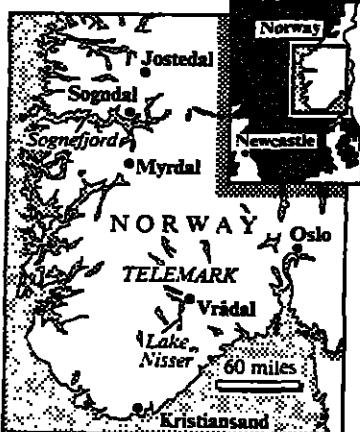
It is also appealing to the self-contained visitor, the family content with its own society or those of a solitary disposition. Norwegians, self-sufficient themselves, would die before intruding on a stranger. An American friend who has lived in Oslo and London says: "Compared with Norwegians, Britons are positively Mediterranean."

We started our two-week holiday at Vrådal on the shores of Lake Nisser, 135 miles south-west of Oslo and about four hours' drive north of the ferry port of Kristiansand. In Norwegian terms this is a resort, but here the word seems misleading. For Vrådal is a mainly agricultural community of a few thousand souls which supports two hotels and perhaps 100 *hytte*. These self-catering log cabins — usually set among pine forests, often in stunning surroundings and thoughtfully equipped — are characteristic of Norway. The cost of eating and drinking out are intimidating, among the highest in Europe, while self-catering (employing a combination of taking non-perishables with you and judicious buying locally) can make Norway a relatively reasonable destination. Fish generally is a good buy while salmon, fresh or smoked, is of excellent quality and cheaper than in Britain.

I confess that there had been some debate within the family over whether we would find

enough to keep ourselves adequately occupied. Our family holidays have tended to be to countries notable for history or culture, and have been nothing if not virtuously active in tramps around museums, galleries and sites. We knew enough of Norway to be aware that there were few landmarks of this kind to be visited. The focus would undoubtedly be on the great outdoors.

If there is one inescapable feature of the country it is the amount of water everywhere. Whether driving along the coastal fjords, or inland, where it seems that another lake is always around the next bend, one is never far from the vast expanses of opal and turquoise that typify Scandinavian scenery. There is, as a consequence, a conspicuous tradition of small-craft boating, and



one of the greatest pleasures we found was simply messing about in boats.

This consisted of hiring a rowing boat (about £6 a day) or a motorboat (about £20 a day), packing a picnic basket and a couple of fishing rods and setting out, literally into the blue. Sooner or later a shady inlet would be found for lunch, and the boat moored and unpacked. Quite often this would be in a spot of great natural beauty, without another person in sight, the total stillness adding to a sense of serenity.

One evening, Tom and Mette Stenklev, the hospitable couple who run the tourist information centre in Vrådal, took us in their boat to a creek at a far corner of the lake to look for beavers. Night was falling as Tom pointed out two large piles of logs at the water's edge indicating nests. The sky was clear, and the late evening air cool enough for hot chocolate to be welcome as we waited. Finally, the dark shape of a beaver, surprisingly large, emerged from a bank and swam swiftly across our bow before diving

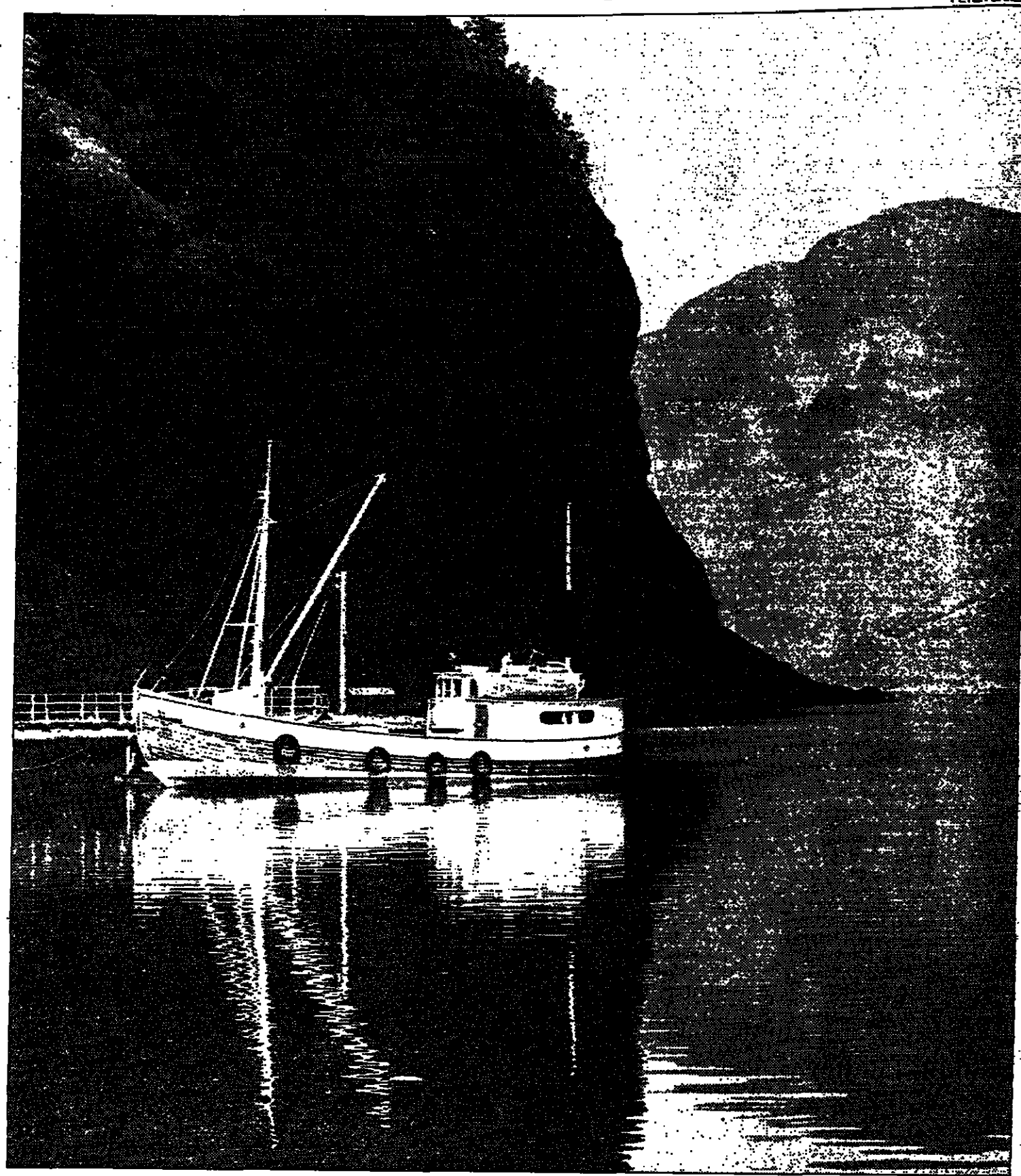
to the concealed nest entrance. The range of wildlife came as a surprise, particularly when, out hiking up a hillside, my five-year-old daughter nearly stood on a large and very fat adder. Other local creatures are less threatening. We did not see elk, but as well as the beaver came across reindeer and mink, and were pleased to encounter hedgehogs, not spattered over highways but bumbling along in the undergrowth.

After Vrådal, our second week was to be spent on Sognefjord, an awesome cleft which penetrates more than 100 miles inland from the west coast and is the longest of Norway's fjords. It was about 250 miles away and looked to be a straightforward run of five or six hours. In the event, it took 13 hours and provided valuable lessons on motoring in Norway — these being that 35mph is a reasonable average speed on narrow, winding roads where overtaking is impossible for long stretches, and that the crossing of fjords is dictated by ferry times. Motoring in Norway only becomes a pleasure when you can manage to sit back and enjoy the view.

Scenery is the key feature of the fjord district. Again we were costly accommodated in log chalets, this time at Sogndal, on the northern bank of the Sognefjord. This region is Norway's main tourist centre, visitors being drawn by the prospect of cruises, salmon fishing, walking and climbing on Jostedal, Europe's biggest glacier, and the scenery itself — a contrast of postcard-like settlements of red-painted farmhouses, and the savage grandeur of the granite cliffs soaring over the fjords.

Another local attraction, much visited by railway buffs, is the Flåm line, which rises from sea level on the Sognefjord to the station of Myrdal, 12.4 miles away at an altitude of 2,845ft. The line is an engineering feat of which the Norwegian authorities are proud, but fine though the view is that unfolds outside the carriage window, I was more impressed by the drive to Flåm from Revsnes. Here, at around 3,000ft, we gained a view over the fjord that stretched for perhaps a dozen miles in either direction, and while the children played in drifts of snow still 10ft deep under a blazing sun.

One last tip: the nanny spirit is still alive and well in Norway, nowhere more so than on the question of alcohol. Wine and spirits are distributed through a state-run outlet known appropriately as the Vinmonopolet, which justifies the brutal tax it exacts on the grounds that it is saving Norwegians from them-



In Norway there is always another lake around the next bend: the vast expanse of opal and turquoise of Sognefjord, Norway's largest, at Flåm

TRAVEL NOTES

One week at either Vrådal Cabin Park, or Vesterland Cabin Park, Sogndal: £245 per adult, £175 per child aged between four and 15. Two-week holiday with a week at each of the above: £345 per adult and £275 per child.

These costs include return ferry fare Harwich-Kristiansand on the MS Braemar in cabin and with car. No meals are included. Information: Fred Olsen Holidays, Crown House, Crown Street, Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 233044).

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Cover up with the right policy

With travellers and holidaymakers becoming ever more adventurous, insurance is essential, Frank Dawes explains

Most of us recognize the necessity of insurance when we travel and, just as important, carrying proof of that cover. There are policies covering the expense and inconvenience of most hazards from illness, accident, theft and loss of baggage or money, to hijacking or cancellation.

Whom to insure with, for what, depends on the degree of risk involved in the holiday, the mode of travel, one's age and state of health and many other factors. It is wise to take out one policy covering all anticipated risks.

For a package holiday in the sun, the insurance may be a nominal sum included in the tour operator's basic price. Typical premiums for holiday insurance of this sort, covering medical and emergency expenses, death or disablement, loss of baggage, personal effects and money, cancellations or delays, personal liability and even "hijack expenses", will cost around £16 for up to nine days and a couple of pounds extra for longer holidays.

Travellers to America should ensure that they have adequate medical cover. A sum of £1 million to include emergency expenses and possibly repatriation is not excessive. A policy providing this as well as other "standard" risks should cost from £35 to £50.

Being fit and healthy when one sets out is not necessarily a guarantee of a carefree

holiday. Potentially dangerous activities such as skiing call for common sense as well as reasonable caution, especially in poor snow conditions.

Carol Leitchford, international operations manager of Mondial Assistance, says: "There's been an increase in torn ligaments this season because skiers are falling on mud, grass and ice patches. Ninety per cent of the cases we've dealt with so far have been of this nature."

Standard holiday insurance policies usually exclude winter sports unless an additional premium has been paid. Costs of interports holiday insurance range from around £20 for less than a week, up to £30 for 17 days.

Mountaineering with ropes and guides, racing flying (other than as a passenger) and diving are other activities which may be excluded in an "all risks" travel policy. Kuoni charges clients an additional £17 for scuba-diving cover. The cover itemized in the brochure is an abbreviated version; if you are not happy with it, ask to see the actual policy.

Age and state of health are obviously important factors in determining the level of premiums, and existing medical



conditions may have to be declared. Saga, which caters for the over-60s, has even introduced wrist tags for clients who want them, listing the medications they are on.

Saga uses the 24-hour world-wide emergency service of Assistance International and says: "Local doctors liaise with its consultants as to whether the patient should receive treatment *in situ* or be repatriated. Payment of all hospital bills is guaranteed and our clients shouldn't have to part with a penny."

More than a third of the 750,000 GB cars touring Europe are covered by AA 5-star, which provides five days basic cover for £24.50, rising

to a whopping £67.60 for the full range of cover from 13 to 31 days. The RAC's Eurocover Motoring Assistance offers help in emergency on a 10-day, monthly or annual basis or a "Get You Home" service for members on trips of up to five days for an extra £10.

No one should drive beyond British shores without the Green Card issued by your vehicle's insurers (the first one in any year is often free); but for last-minute getaways, P & O European Ferries has its own Green Card insurance policy providing cover for up to 17 days for £24.90.

Apart from the old familiar motoring organizations, which have been doing their job for the past 80 or 90 years, no fewer than 21 companies in Britain are competing for a slice of the overseas "assistance" market. Some amount to little more than private ambulance companies.

The best known is probably Europ Assistance, which started in a small way in France in 1963 and has grown into a world-wide network covering 80 million people travelling in 180 countries each year. It charges £34.50 for one to 17 days continental motoring cover and an additional £8 for medical cover, or £16.50 for all-risks cover.

There is a trade association for medical assistance companies (Medastra) of which Europ Assistance is a member. So is its closest rival and near neighbour, Mondial.

But several reputable companies remain outside Medastra and regard it as unrepresentative. One such is Travellers' Medical Service, started by four nurses and doctors five years ago and now handling 4,500 emergency calls a year. Like most of these 24-hour services, TMS operates for other organizations (including Intasun and the RAC) and sub-contracts for its ambulances and aircraft.

It is safer in the long run to insure with household-name organizations. If you are a frequent traveller on business it is worth considering a year-round travel insurance, which may include leisure activities and cover for your spouse as well. This becomes an even more attractive proposition if you can do it under one policy.

This can cost a couple less than £200 for a whole year and increased benefits or cover for skiing can be added for a relatively small premium. Always have your policy with you when you travel and even if this is confined to an annual holiday, never assume the tour operator has taken responsibility for it. In the last resort it is down to you.

HELPLINES

- Holiday insurance market leaders are Norwich Union, Eagle Star, General Accident and Bishopsgate.
- Perry and Gamble (01-879 1255), T. L. Ireland (01-481 4591), and Crispin Speers and Partners (01-480 5083) offer reliable advice.
- Helpline: 010 3521 872121 (AA Emergency Centre, Boulogne), 01-680 1234 (Europ Assistance), 01-681 2525 (Mondial Assistance), 01-924 1434 (Mediguard), 0372 363936 (Ges), 01-992 5077 (Transcare International), 0703 227788 (Assistance International), 0798 43363 (Travellers' Medical Service), 01-684 1687 (Rowland Brothers International, funeral directors).

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TRAVEL

Land of the Tuscan

Ann Morrow makes a romantic journey through the medieval towns of Italy's golden triangle

Kee on climbing," a shepherd said, waving stiffly towards the Versilia mountains. Crickets were singing and bells were chiming for a wedding at the Della-Robbia church in Pieve. Idyllic, except that we were perched on a Tuscan hillside about 1,000ft above sea level, utterly lost.

Turning an evil corner, the car had gone spinning into a small farmyard, waking a dozing granny. Reversing, and with ingratiating scuffs, any hopeful questions about "Peralta... restored Etruscan village?" met only with a sympathetic smile.

Listed in an international guide as the "most elusive hotel in Italy", Peralta is notoriously difficult to find. This came a bit hard after Genoa had been negotiated at rush hour. Tunnels dark as Dante's Inferno had been whooshed through flamboyantly, chased all the while by over-excited Italian drivers, headlights full on.

When the mountain track petered out, it was a huge relief to abandon the car. An elderly black sheepdog, almost smiling under a greying muzzle,

then led us along a path scented with rosemary. After about eight minutes, we came to a string of quirky rose stone rusticos, cool with vines and wisteria. Peaches were ripening to a vinous red and, once the colour of old men's cheeks, would drop on to the warm flagstones. A gentle breeze stirred the olive bushes on the ancient terraces. This was Peralta.

Once owned by the Duke of Luca, the hillside village is the love-child of the Italian sculptress Fiore de Henriquez, a place of intriguing archways, high steps, and walls secretive under bougainvillea, it overlooks the best of Tuscany; not Chianti-shire, but genuine small-holding countryside.

When "La Fiore" bought it 20 years ago it had little but wild mint sprouting from the pale ruins. The grass is still long and golden, full of poppies and gorse. In the valleys below, formal cypresses allow teasing glimpses of the Mediterranean. A few old men born in Peralta have stayed on and are honoured guests at the sculptress's table, savouring large dry martinis, Russian music, stories of espionage and Estonia, and the talent of a delicate girl who sings madrigals for the Pope in Rome.

Sculpture is dotted round the terraces; powerful life-sized figures; a Calabrian peasant woman on solid feet cradling a stillborn ninth baby. Even the rocks round the swimming pool look like pieces of art.

Friendly and informal, Peralta is for peace. Children under 16 are not allowed as guests. It is like staying in a country house and being looked after by the young in the family. Run by a team of polite young people selected in London, the girls are called "the scrubbers" and do everything; the boys too, from mixing champagne cocktails to sweeping the courtyard. Rooms may not have baths but they do have black

wrought-iron curtains rails, shaped like serpents. White embroidered curtains flutter at tiny windows opening to a hazy dawn shimmering over misty green forests.

Some guests were up at sunrise tracing Shelley's footsteps in the bosky-scented hillsides near Marignana. Reward on reaching the top was a lunch of homemade pasta, ham and an aperitif made from artichokes and rhubarb, served by an elderly couple with innocent-looking faces.

Others drove through the Carrara mountains, and were moved by Michelangelo's struggle to secure enough marble. Even today the workmen look like figures from *Gulliver's Travels*, tiny and vulnerable beside the gigantic rocks of freshly hewn marble.

Peralta is an ideal base from which to tour the medieval golden triangle of Florence, Lucca and Siena. During a day in Florence, the roof terrace restaurant on top of the Uffizi was a delicious discovery for guilty enjoyment of strawberries and whipped cream between rich courses of Botticelli, Titian and Rembrandt. Then up to Fiesole to watch

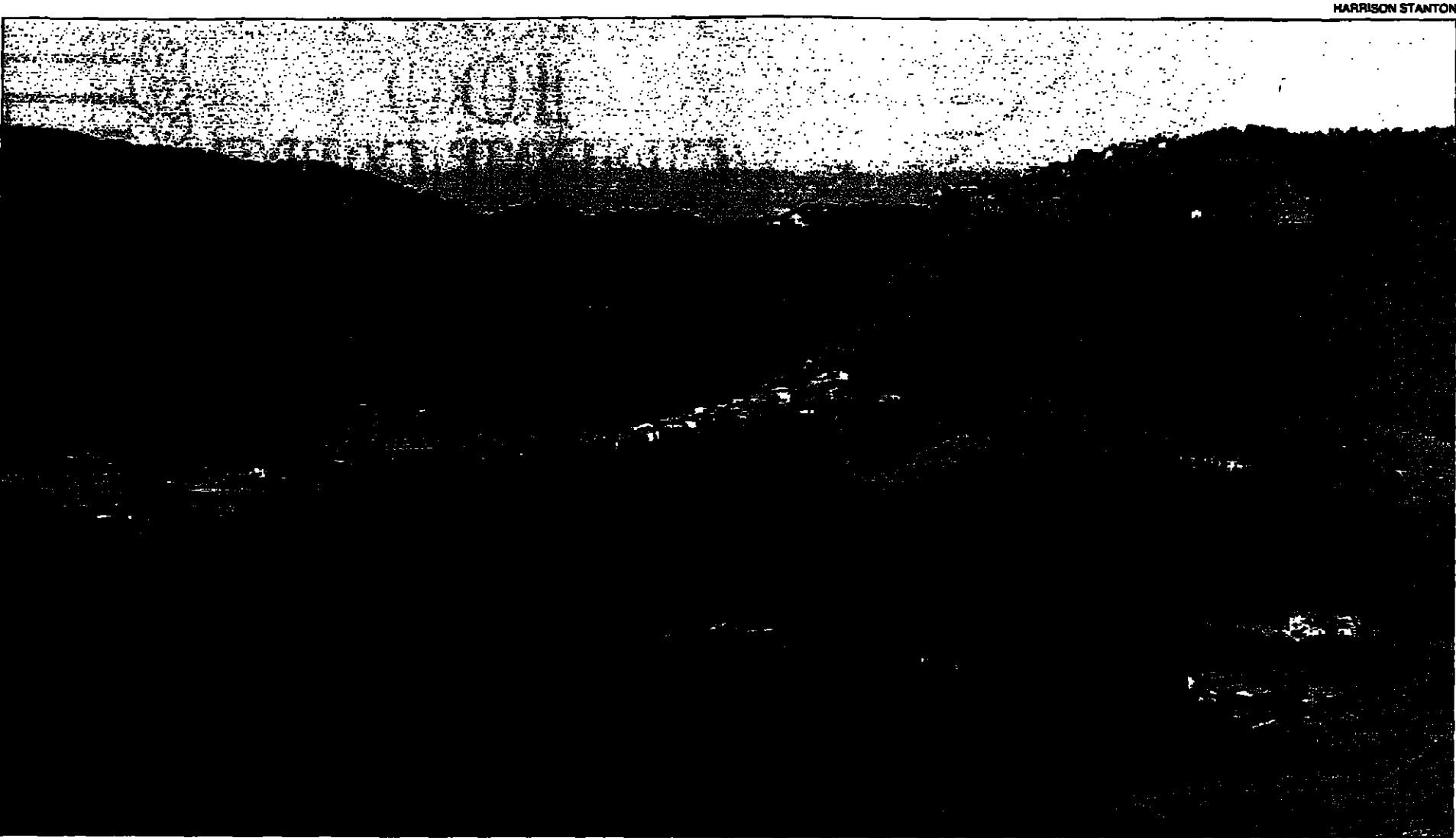
Florence twinkle at dusk. This is the hour when Africans in swirling robes lope across the Ponte Vecchio, snirking at disapproving goldsmiths, and set up their stalls of imitation Vuitton. The old monastery of San Michele at Fiesole, now an expensive hotel, attracts fat men in black silk suits wearing lots of gold, sunk into wickerwork chairs moodily watching their young blonde companions.

Luca has great charm and is about 40 minutes from Peralta. At the Puccini museum, a long-haired girl left the ticket desk and solemnly wound up a rickety gramophone. Suddenly the place came to life, the rooms with their walls the colour of pale lemon mousse were no longer sterile, as Victoria de Los Angeles's vibrant *Tosca* carried to Luca rooftops. As if by arrangement, a streak of sunlight settled on a dusty glass case holding a Statat Mater score and letter written by the maestro from Claridge's.

In the square outside, trattorias offered thrush on a spit and water which promised to cure arthritis and jolly up the liver. Napoleon chose this medieval fortress town as the perfect present for his sister.

Food at Peralta was homely. Real Italian flavours could be found nearby at Camaiore, a dignified small town of quiet dark streets and a market selling lace bedspreads, raffia baskets, stunning gardenias and cherries by the sackful. For about £20, in any number of dark, tiled cafts, you could have simple *tagliatelli con funghi e porcini* in a creamy sauce, and grilled prawns dressed in garlic and herbs.

Those who live in Peralta love it in spring as they wait for the mimosa in the valleys. In winter, when the visitors have gone, they light log fires and watch the light from the snowy Versilia mountains. It is their Tuscany again.



Panorama of peace: woodsmoke scents the air over the hillside village of Peralta, "the most elusive hotel in Italy", below which cypresses allow teasing glimpses of the blue Mediterranean

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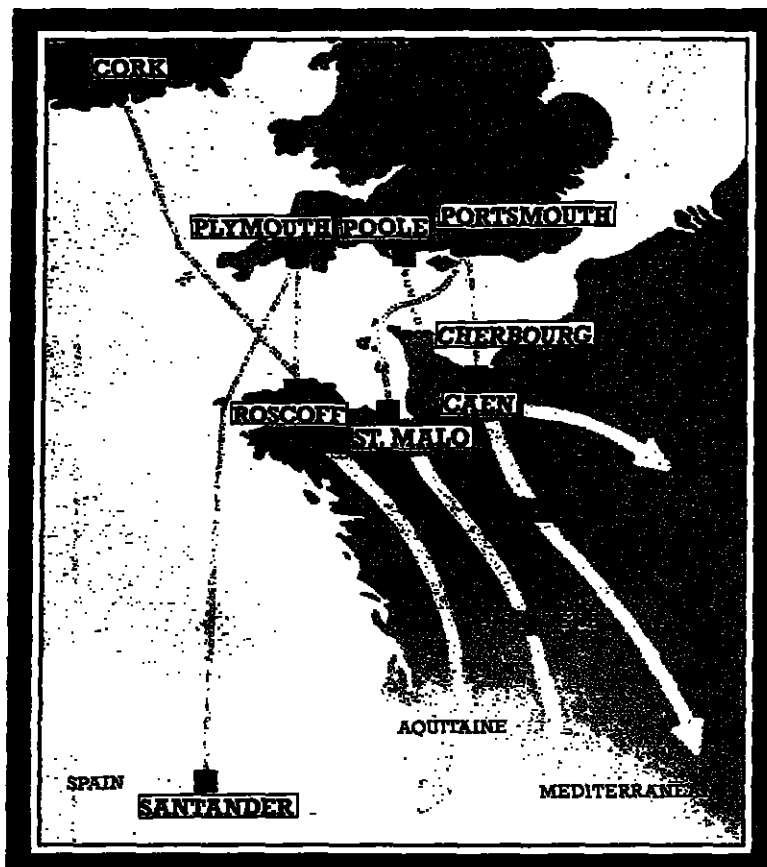
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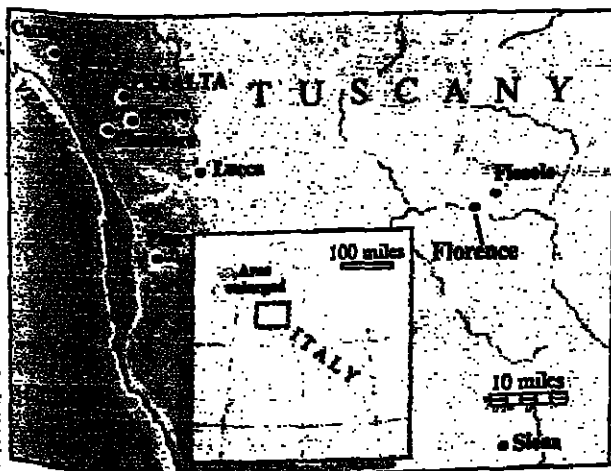
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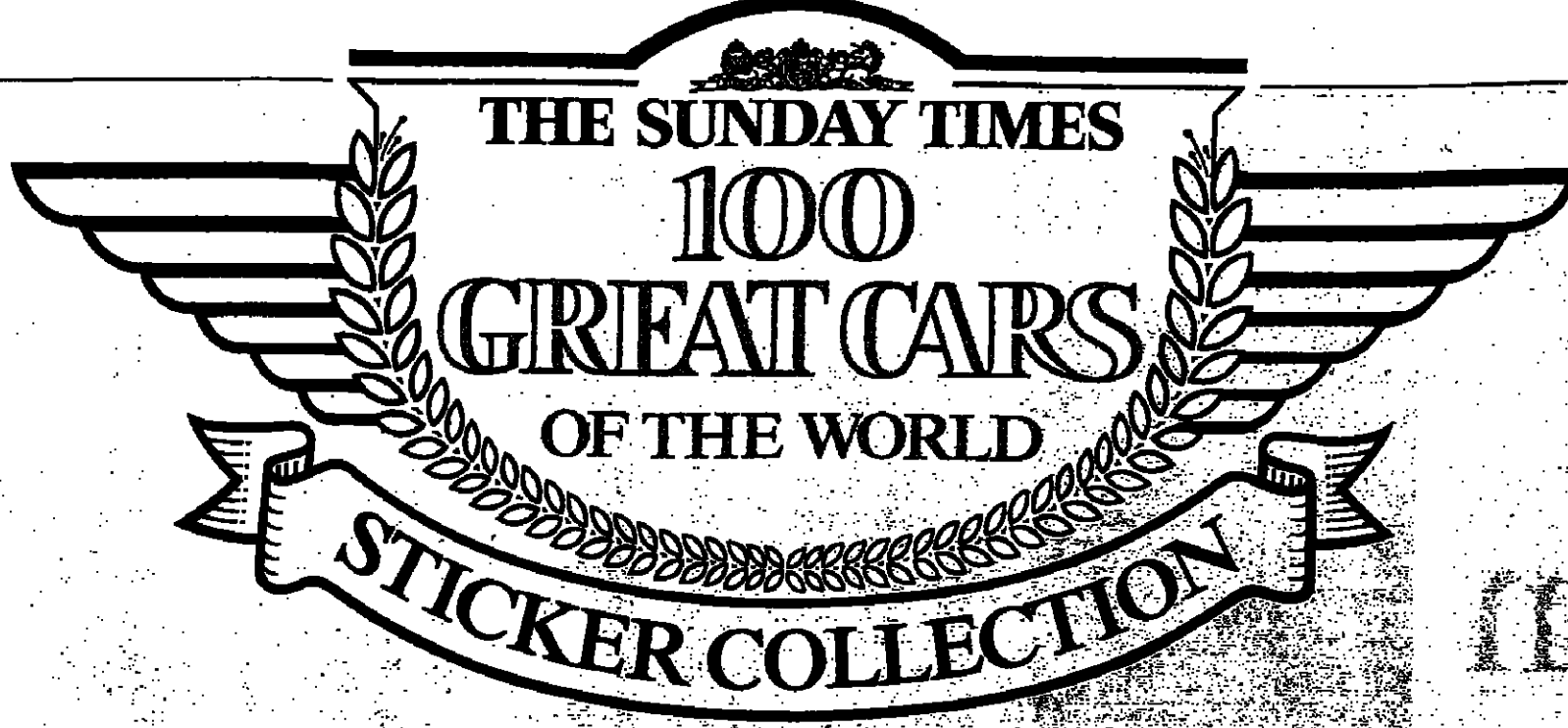
TRAVEL NOTES

• Contact Harrison Stanton and Haslam, Specialist Holidays, 25 Suddridge Street, London SW6 3SL. (01-736 5094). A room and Continental breakfast at Peralta costs from £119 a week.
• A car is essential. The cost last June of taking a car, driver and passenger on French Railways (Calais-Nice) return was £726 (including the cross-Channel fare of £99, car £463 return, plus £144 for two tourist-class sleepers).

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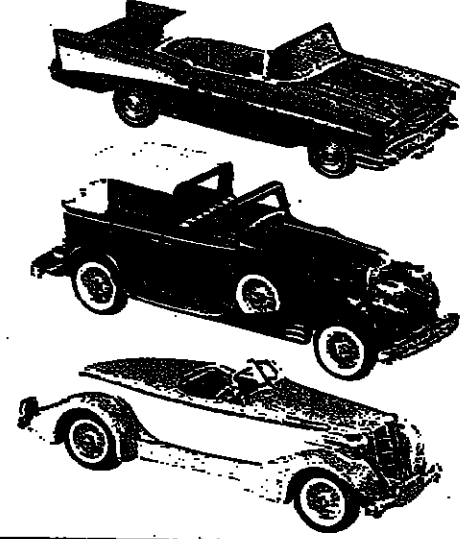
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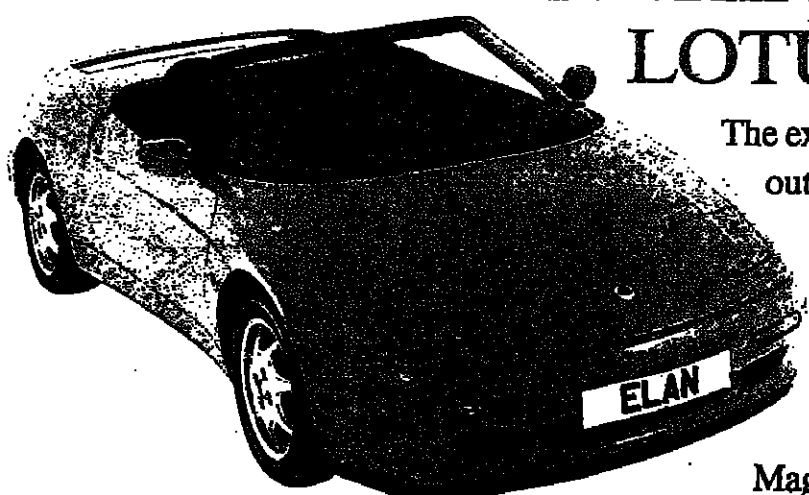
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